

lay, October 4, 1998



UFO believers have their chance now

WASHINGTON (AP) — To spend your life searching for UFOs? The University of Washington says it has received a three-million-dollar grant from the National Science Foundation to set up an interdisciplinary programme to study the "science of UFOs". The programme will involve 11 faculty members in physics, astronomy, psychology, sociology, anthropology, chemistry, biology, microelectronics, geophysics, and social sciences, and has said in a statement.

Schiff leaves catwalk days forever

MILAN (AP) — The supermodel Claudia Schiffer says she is leaving the catwalk days behind her. She never went to Milan, not even in Paris, as she is now a mother of two. She is now a mother of two. She is now a mother of two.

Account of 'Love Rat' Hewitt's affair with Diana

LONDON (AP) — A detailed account by a former royal palatine of Prince of Wales' alleged affair with a woman known as 'Love Rat' is set to be published in a new book.

Guillotined by lock of hair in French auction

LE FONTAINE (AP) — A lock of hair from the guillotined King Louis XVI was sold at a French auction for 100,000 francs.

Stallone's former security guard pleads guilty

MIAMI (AP) — A former security guard for Sylvester Stallone pleaded guilty to kidnapping the actor's wife, Karen, in 1992.

Two Israeli Arabs arrested for arms sales to Hamas

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli police arrested two Israeli Arabs suspected of selling weapons to a Hamas activist killed on Tuesday in the West Bank, court officials said Sunday. They are accused of having sold weapons to Zahran Zahran, a Palestinian Hamas activist who was killed when a bomb exploded in the trunk of his car. A Tel Aviv court ordered the two men, whose identities were not revealed, to be held in custody for one week. The two men have denied the accusations. One of them has previously been convicted of having links with Hamas, but the other one has never been charged before. Two other Israeli Arabs were arrested by Israeli police on the same charges following Zahran's death but they were released after interrogation 24 hours later.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأسي

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Volume 23 Number 6960

AMMAN MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1998, JUMADA II 14, 1419

Price: Jordan 200 fils

Mubarak meets Assad in bid to defuse tension with Ankara

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held two rounds of talks with his Syrian counterpart Hafez Assad here Sunday on the first leg of a mission to defuse mounting tension between Syria and Turkey. Syrian presidential spokesman Gibran Kourieh said that in one of the meetings the two leaders met alone without their accompanying delegations.

Mubarak told Assad the dispute should be resolved "by dialogue, discussion and contact, not by armed force and threats." Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters here after the meeting.

"A position of Arab solidarity with Syria is not hostile to Turkey, but tensions between them could harm relations between all the nations in the region," he told a news conference he held jointly with his Syrian counterpart Farouk Al Sharaa.

"Egypt and Syria agree on the dangerous nature of the situation and the necessity of resolving it by diplomatic dialogue and not by threats and confrontation," Sharaa told reporters.

But he made clear Damascus's disquiet over the escalating war of words launched by Turkish officials in recent days.

"We are shocked at the statements made by the Turkish leadership because nothing new has happened to justify them," he said.

Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz warned Syria that the Turkish army was on stand-by "awaiting orders" to attack, Istanbul newspapers reported Saturday.

Iraq says Turkish troops entered its territory

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq said that Turkish troops had crossed the border into its territory and called for their immediate retreat, the Iraqi news agency INA reported Sunday.

"Several units of the Turkish army, estimated at more than 10,000 soldiers, made another invasion into northern Iraq on Oct. 2 [Friday], supported by the Turkish air force," an Iraqi foreign affairs ministry spokesman said, quoted by INA.

"The Iraqi government condemns this new military aggression... and calls on the Turkish government to withdraw its troops immediately and not to repeat such aggressions," he said.

"He says he is there and lots of people go to Damascus and speak to him there, but [Syria] claims he is not there," Demirel said. "A country cannot do this to a neighbour."

Mubarak headed home Sunday evening ahead of the second leg of his mediation mission, an Egyptian diplomat here said.

He is expected in Ankara late Monday or early Tuesday, Turkey's Anatolia news agency reported. He will then return to Damascus to brief Assad on the outcome of his talks, Egypt's MENA news agency said.

The Cairo-based Arab League on Sunday condemned the reports of Turkish troop deployments along the Syrian border as a "clear threat to peace and security in the region" and urged Turkey to enter into a "serious dialogue" with Syria.

Iraq declared its solidarity with its Arab neighbour, while urging the two countries to resolve their differences by negotiation.

Iran urged Turkey to exercise "self-restraint" while telling Syria its support for Damascus was "steadfast."

Jordan and Kuwait called on the two neighbours to resolve their differences peacefully.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denied Arab charges that the military alliance Israel signed with Turkey in February 1996 was behind the mounting tension with its arch-enemy Syria.

"Israel is not a party to the Syrian-Turkish conflict," Netanyahu told reporters. "Certain measures have been taken in order to reassure Damascus of Israel's position."



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor receive on Sunday at the Mayo Clinic Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh, Royal Court Chief Jawad Anani and Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khatib

King, Queen receive Tarawneh

ROCHESTER (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor received Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh at the Mayo Clinic in the U.S.

The King, who is undergoing chemotherapy at the Minnesota hospital, reassured Tarawneh and the Jordanian people about his health and the progress of his treatment and asked the prime minister to convey his greetings to the Jordanian people.

His Majesty was briefed by Tarawneh, accompanied by Royal Court Chief Jawad Anani and Foreign Minister

"As usual, morale is high... and I just wanted to reassure the Jordanian people about His Majesty's health," the prime minister told the live evening show.

"The treatment is progressing as we want it, and the [King's] meeting [with his people] will take place soon, as expected, God willing," the prime minister said, adding that the meeting was a good opportunity for him to receive directives from the King on "a large number of issues, including government plans and... mechanisms aimed at implementing the

Royal letter of designation and the Lower House of Parliament's discussions." King Hussein also commended the government's efforts to ensure transparency, Tarawneh said.

The premier also said the King expressed satisfaction with such live programmes on JTV which discuss issues of interest to the public and allow public participation via the telephone.

His Majesty, Tarawneh said, follows matters on JTV as well as other television channels to keep informed of events in Jordan.

Israelis, Palestinians meet to iron out obstacles

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli and Palestinian officials met to iron out the remaining differences over a month-old U.S. peace initiative Sunday as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was ready to take the political risk of concluding an agreement.

The steering committee for Israeli-Palestinian negotiations met for the first time in several months to pave the way for talks later this week with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Delegations led by chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat and Israeli Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh held three hours of talks in one of occupied Jerusalem's main hotels.

"This meeting is in preparation for Albright's visit," Erekat told reporters.

"Albright is coming with a positive response from [Palestinian] President [Yasser] Arafat on the U.S. initiative. The shortest way to reach an agreement is for Albright to acquire a positive response to the proposal from Mr. Netanyahu."

"There are still differences on all major issues," he said.

Albright and U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross are due here Tuesday to prepare for a three-way summit in Washington later this month between U.S. President Bill Clinton, Arafat and Netanyahu.

Jordan calls for end to Kosovo ethnic cleansing

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan on Sunday condemned "the bloody crackdown and ethnic cleansing of the defenceless citizens in Kosovo."

Minister of Culture and Youth and Acting Foreign Minister Talal Sata'an Al Hassan told Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the government condemns crackdown on the Muslim minority in the province, adding that such acts constitute a flagrant violation of international conventions, norms, legitimacy and human rights.

The government also called on the international community represented by the U.N. Security Council and the European Union (EU) to put an end to bloodletting and to halt conflict in the province, stressing the need for embarking on a constructive dialogue among the concerned parties with preconditions.

The minister said that the international community should also take part in ending the crisis to reach a political solution through negotiations in a manner that secures the legitimate rights of the citizens of Kosovo and that meets their aspirations in an independent state in accordance with U.N. Resolution 1199.

Faced with intensifying preparations by NATO for punitive air strikes, the Serb government announced last week that its seven-month crackdown against ethnic Albanian insurgents in Kosovo was over.

Western diplomats in Kosovo reported on Saturday that most areas appeared free of military action as Western political leaders prepared a final decision on whether to override Russian and Chinese objections and unleash punitive air strikes against Serb authorities.

Yugoslav army tank units and other troops have mostly withdrawn to their barracks during the past week after Belgrade said its offensive against separatist ethnic Albanians had been completed.

Political parties, writers voice support for Syria in stand-off with Turkey

By Alia A. Toukan

AMMAN — While the government has steered clear of taking sides in the current Syrian-Turkish crisis, several political parties and writers on Sunday demanded Jordan throw its full weight behind Damascus.

The Kingdom, however, is faced with a difficult situation as it has strained relations with Syria but enjoys close political and military ties with Turkey, officials said.

Further complicating matters is Ankara's perceived pact with Tel Aviv, perceived by some in the Arab World to be targeting Damascus and harming Arab interests.

Although officials and diplomats said yesterday they did not expect the sabre rattling to escalate into a military conflict, they said Amman would be willing to use its good offices with Ankara to ease the tension, but only if it is asked by

Damascus.

Officials said Jordan has not held any talks with Turkey about the recent crisis.

The government on Saturday urged the two countries to peacefully resolve their differences. "Jordan... calls on both parties to discuss the causes of the dispute between them in a positive manner and to exert sincere efforts to introduce permanent solutions that take into consideration both parties' interests and the higher interests of the region," Minister of Information Nasser Judeh said in a statement, carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Leading columnist Fahed Faneh Sunday said in Al Rai'i daily that Turkish "threats" to an Arab country are "absolutely unacceptable."

"Jordan, which has always maintained good relations with Turkey, is embarrassed by Turkish aggressive behaviour," he said. "No

matter what reservations we have against Syrian policies towards Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, or Iraq, we can only be on the Arab side."

This was echoed by Al Arab Al Yawm's Chief Editor Saleh Qallab who said: "We can only stand with Syria if Turkey attacks it, and on this (matter) there is no discussion."

The National Consultation Party (NCP), a centrist party, called on the government to seek reconciliation between the two sides, and work against alliances in the region, particularly if they are aimed against an Arab country.

More West Bank clashes Sunday on eve of Jewish holiday

HEBRON (AP) — Stone-throwing clashes broke out Sunday at an Israeli checkpoint outside the tense West Bank town of Hebron, but no injuries were immediately reported.

It marked the fifth straight day of skirmishes in and around Hebron, which is home to 450 Jewish settlers and 130,000 Palestinians and a frequent flashpoint for violence.

Sunday's fighting broke out at the Halhul checkpoint outside Hebron, where Israeli troops were refusing to let anyone pass. A crowd of about 100 Palestinians gathered, and some began throwing stones and bottles at the soldiers.

The troops responded with rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas, but witnesses said no one was hurt.

The closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with some easing, has been in effect since just before the Sept. 20 new year holiday.

Army radio said it was expected to continue through the weekend Jewish festival of Sukkot, which was beginning at sundown Sunday.

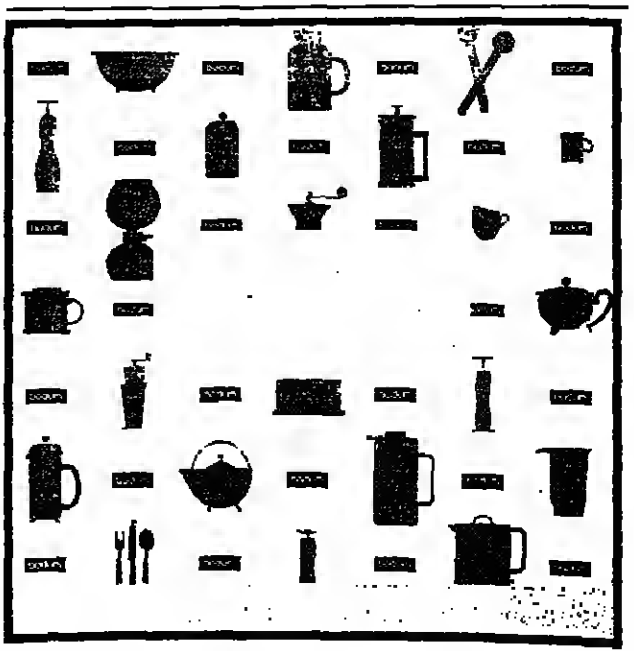
Palestinians complain bitterly about closures, which prevent tens of thousands of workers from getting to jobs in Israel and cost the Palestinian economy millions in lost wages and commercial trade.

In sealing off the Palestinian lands, Israel cited threats from the Islamic resistance movement Hamas, which has killed scores of Israelis in suicide bombings since 1994.

Hamas vowed to carry out attacks after Israeli soldiers killed two wanted fugitives from the group last month.

Israel Radio quoted defence officials as saying potential terror targets include airports, border crossings, beaches, and sites abroad associated with Israel or Judaism.

Also Sunday, the two sides were working to lay groundwork for a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who is due to arrive Tuesday. Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat was holding talks with Israel's Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh.



Zeroual to discuss Algeria poll plan with parties

ALGIERS (R) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual has invited about 20 political parties for talks on elections planned for early next year to choose a new president.

State-run media said Saturday Zeroual would meet on Wednesday the leaders of the registered parties which are not represented in the parliament to discuss the modalities of the poll.

Among those invited for talks are the National Republican Alliance led by former Prime Minister Redha Malek, and the moderate Islamist Renewal Algerian Party headed by Noureddine Boukhrouh.

Zeroual held similar talks in the past week with eight political groups represented

in the 380-seat parliament.

He vowed in those talks that the next poll would be free and fair but rejected calls for him to change his mind and serve through his five-year mandate which ends in 2000.

No firm date has been set for the next poll. Zeroual had initially said the election would take place in February, but he later promised to consider demands by party leaders urging him to delay the vote by a few weeks.

In November 1995, Zeroual won Algeria's first multi-candidate presidential poll with more than 60 per cent of the vote on the promises of restoring peace, speeding up free-market economic reforms and stemming corruption.

The outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which was banned from taking part in the 1995 election, is excluded from the talks on the next poll.

Analysts and diplomats have said Zeroual was stepping down following a power struggle with the powerful military establishment which dominates Algeria's political life since independence from France 36 years ago.

Algeria has been racked by violence since 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election in which FIS had taken a commanding lead.

More than 65,000 people have been killed in the civil strife since then, according to Western estimates.

Iraqi minister says U.N. agency to help with food

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq has signed an agreement with the World Food Programme, a U.N. agency, to expand its special feeding programme for the poor, an Iraqi minister was quoted Sunday as saying.

The labour and social affairs minister, Lt. Gen. Saadi Tu'ma, told Al-Musawir Al-Arabi weekly that "the ministry has signed a deal with the World Food Programme, which Iraq has supported financially in the past, to increase food items for poor Iraqis." He said that the number eligible for the monthly food aid would increase to 943,000 from the current 240,000, starting in November, the paper said.

Tu'ma did not make clear who would pay for expanding the programme, which in the past was underwritten by the Iraqi government.

The food aid is over and above the monthly food ration that all Iraqis receive under the U.N.-approved oil-for-food programme. The special feeding programme makes available to the poor five kilograms of flour, three kilograms of sugar, two kilograms of lentils and two kilograms of cooking oil.

The monthly ration for all Iraqis includes flour, rice, sugar, tea, lentils, salt, cooking oil, soap and detergent. There is also a special ration of milk for babies.

The United Nations hopes to add protein in the form of whole milk for adults to the November ration.

Eight Algerians killed since Thursday — press

ALGIERS (AFP) — Six armed Islamists, a policeman and a civilian were killed between Thursday and Saturday amid continuing violence in Algeria, newspapers reported here Sunday.

The six Islamists were killed Thursday near Taret, 240 kilometres southwest of Algiers, when a bomb they were trying to plant under a tractor exploded, said French-language dailies Liberte and Le Quotidien d'Oran.

Gunmen shot dead a policeman and wounded his colleague who were sitting Saturday at a cafe in Carouhier in the eastern

suburbs of the capital. The gunmen then fled in a waiting car.

Overnight Thursday an elderly man was shot and killed by armed Islamists on a farm in Beni-Snousse, near the far western city of Tlemcen, according to Le Quotidien d'Oran.

On Tuesday four people were murdered by suspected Islamists in the areas of Ain Defla in the southwest and Medea in the south, the press said on Thursday.

A week ago Sunday eight people, mostly students, were killed when a bomb exploded near a school in Al Khemis in the southwest.

Mass detention, torture of Copts in death case — report

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian police detained — and sometimes tortured — dozens of Christians in a town in southern Egypt in their investigation into the deaths of two local Christians, a human rights group said Sunday.

The report from the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights accused security forces of "mass punishment" of residents of the town of Al Kushi in Sohag province, which is about 400 kilometres south of Cairo.

Some of those detained described being hung up by their hands, tortured with electric shocks and beaten. Men said the police threatened to rape their wives and daughters if they did not provide information about the killings.

Interior ministry officials denied the reports of mass arrests and said only a few people were questioned after the killings. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

Coptic Christians are a minority in Egypt, representing about one-sixth of the country's 60 million people. The government is sensitive about the

Christians because of repeated allegations that they are treated as second-class citizens.

Trouble in Al Kushi — where about three-quarters of the 40,000 residents are Christians — began on Aug. 14, when the bodies of Samir Oweida, 25, and Karam Tamer, 27, were found in front of a school.

The human rights group said that in the quest by police to find a suspect, some 1,200 people were detained over a period of three weeks for questioning.

It said that most of the detainees were Christian and that the police avoided interrogating Muslim residents of the town to avoid raising Christian-Muslim tensions.

In the end a Christian, Sheibouh William Artouri, was arrested and charged in the case, the human rights report said.

Police said Artouri was with the victims on the night of the crime and that after they had gambled and gotten drunk, he allegedly shot them with a pistol, the report said.



ENJOY TEHRAN TRADE FAIR: Iranian women Sunday pass by a huge can of Coolack Cola, an imitation of the famous Coca-Cola, at the international trade fair in Tehran. Some 2,000 companies from 75 countries are taking part in the 24th Tehran Fair (AFP photo)

'Israeli warplanes equipped to carry chemical, biological weapons'

LONDON (AP) — Israeli F-16 fighters have been equipped to carry chemical and biological weapons manufactured at a secret biological institute in the Tel Aviv suburb of Nes Ziona, The Sunday Times reported.

The newspaper also said the institute supplied poison for an attempt last year to kill Khaled Misha'al, a leader of the Islamist group Hamas.

Israeli agents sprayed the poison into Misha'al's ear,

but Israel was forced to supply an antidote after Jordan threatened to put the agents on trial, the report said.

Last week, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office acknowledged that an El Al cargo plane that crashed in an Amsterdam residential area in 1992 was carrying a chemical that can be used in making the nerve gas sarin.

Some 190 litres of dimethyl methylphosphonate (DMMP), a key component of sarin, was destined for the institute, and was replaced, the Israeli government confirmed.

It said, however, the chemical has various industrial uses and the shipment was approved by Washington.

The Israeli government has merely called "inaccurate" reports that the institute makes chemical and biological weapons — and according to The Sunday Times — more unusual poi-

sons too.

The Sunday Times said Israeli air force crews are now trained to fit active chemical or biological weapons to F-16s within minutes of receiving a command to attack.

The institute was founded in 1952 as a single building hidden in an orange grove and now sprawls over several acres surrounded by a 1.8 metre wall equipped with sensors, the newspaper said.

Seven Iraqis to be tried for attempted murder

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Seven Iraqi nationals accused of attempting to murder the Iraqi chargé d'affaires in Amman in January had their cases referred to the Criminal Court, judicial sources said.

Rahim Tahir, 45, escaped an assassination attempt on Jan. 3 after two unidentified gunmen in a rented car fired one bullet at him near his residence in the Um Utheinah neighbourhood.

Four of the accused, Qasim Mohammad, 26, Jafar Niman, 29, Ahmad Tae'i, 28, and Ahmad Muhisin, 24, are in jail charged with attempted murder, possession of an unlicensed gun, forgery of passports and obstructing justice.

Three, including Tahir's son Samir and his mother-in-law Houriyah Abbas Kazim, will be tried in absentia.

The suspects were arrested two weeks after the failed assassination attempt.

The prime suspect in the case, Qasim Mohammad, told interrogators shortly after his arrest that he was paid 20 million Iraqi dinars (almost \$13,000) to assassinate Tahir, police said.

He said the attack was masterminded by Tahir's mother-in-law because "her son-in-law was allegedly in love with another woman and was about to marry her."

Egyptian, Iranian ties improving — Musa

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said in an interview Sunday that relations between Cairo and Tehran have "greatly improved" since ties were severed 20 years ago.

"Relations between Egypt and Iran are far better than they were in the past. Ties have greatly improved," Musa told Al Hayat newspaper which is published simultaneously in Cairo and other Arab capitals.

"Egypt and Iran are engaged in a dialogue and share common areas of cooperation and consultation," he said. "We are on the road to improving and stabilising relations."

"Iran wants better ties and we want better ties," he said. Diplomatic relations

between Cairo and Tehran were severed in the aftermath of the 1979 Islamic revolution and the overthrow of the shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, who left for exile in Egypt, where he died and is buried.

Egypt and Iran maintain diplomatic interests sections in each other's capital and in recent months they have hosted official delegations from either side and are seeking to develop economic and other links.

The Cairo film festival to be held in December will feature, for the first time since ties were severed, a series of Iranian films, in what is seen as another sign of improved relations between the two Muslim countries.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10Cartoon — Highlander
15:30 Drama — The Genie From Down Under
16:00Drama — Neighbours
16:30Doc. — Last Frontiers
17:00French Programme — Thalassa
18:00Drama — Wind at My Back (Ep.2)
19:00Le Journal
19:15 French Programme — Science Actualities
19:30News headlines
19:35Comedy — Hope and Gloria
20:00Prospective
20:30World Net — "Environment"
21:00Good Guys, Bad Guys
22:00News in English
22:30 Mini-series — The Nutcrackers (Ep.2)
23:59End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:10Fajr
05:27(Sunrise) Duha
11:24Dhuhr
14:45Asr
17:21Maghreb
18:38Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifich, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4634590
Serra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366

Anglican Church

Tel. 4624853/4624811.

St. Abram Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751.

Amman International Church Tel. 5865897

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932

St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440

Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138

Church of Presentation, Sweifich Tel. 5920146

The Uniate Catholic Church Tel. 4624757

The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190

Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679

The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052

The Armenian Catholic Church 4771331

The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Moderate weather conditions will

prevail with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be relatively hot, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman15/28

Aqaba22/35

Deserts13/32

Jordan Valley20/34

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 28 Aqaba 35 Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.

Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:

Ajloun25

Jerash32

Um Qays31

Madaba30

Petra32

Dead Sea38

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Walid Al-Masri5675485
Dr. Youssef Rashid4875792
Dr. Jun'a Abu Dhiab4758848

Dr. Ahmad Maana'5359413

Firas pharmacy5661912

Al Asema pharmacy5347632

Nairokh pharmacy4623672

Al Salam pharmacy4636730

Yacoub pharmacy4644945

Shmeisani pharmacy4637660

Najib pharmacy5347632

IRBID:
Dr. Lotfi Shibli241798

Dr. Quds pharmacy(—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Walid Hakeem982799

Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre4637111

Civil Defence Department5661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue4630341

Civil Defence Emergency199

Rescue Police 192.4621111, 4637777

Fire Brigade4617101

Blood Bank4775121

Highway Police5343402

Traffic Police4896390

Public Security Dept.4630321

Hotel Complaints5605800

Price Complaints5661176

Water & Sewerage Complaints 4897467

Amman Municipality Complaints4787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance)121

Overseas Calls010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs4623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs5661101

Al Hilma Modern Hospital4773111

Radio Jordan4774111

Water Authority5680100

J. Electricity Authority5815615

Electric Power Co.4636381

RJ Flight Information44-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport44-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery5921199

The Islamic, Abdli5666131/7

Hussein Medical Centre5856856

Luzmila4630195

Khalidi Maternity4642411/6

Akileh Maternity4642411/2

Jabal Amman Maternity4642362

Malhas, J. Amman4636140

Palestine, Shmeisani5607071

Shmeisani Hospital5669131

University Hospital5353444

Al-Muasher Hospital5667279

Al-Ahli, Abdali5664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen4777101/3

Al-Bashir4775111/26

Army, Madja4891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital5602240/50

Arnal Hospital4891611/15

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital09/983323

ZARQA National Hospital

Repairs4623101

Ibn Sina Hospital09/986732

Al Hilma Modern Hospital09/99099

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital

09/25 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA and proceeding to Marka Airport) (RW)

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Russia envoys in Belgrade after warning West

BELGRADE (R) — Russia sent senior government envoys to confer with Yugoslavia President Slobodan Milosevic Sunday after issuing a tough warning to the West not to unleash NATO air strikes against Yugoslavia.

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev met Milosevic and his army chief of staff General Momcilo Perisic.

The United States Friday threatened Milosevic with air strikes within two weeks unless he met U.N. demands for a ceasefire and peace talks with ethnic Albanian separatists in Serbia's Kosovo province.

Ivanov's unannounced mission to Belgrade followed a Moscow government statement that Russia would see NATO attacks as a "flagrant breach" of the United Nations charter unless they were approved by the Security Council.

The statement, reported by ITAR-TASS news agency, warned the United States and its NATO allies that air strikes would "undermine the whole system of current international relations".

Russia and China dispute Western claims that resolu-

tions that the Security Council has already passed authorise the use of force by NATO without the need for a further vote.

Moscow has intervened before to help Yugoslavia escape threats of punitive action by the West, most recently last June when President Boris Yeltsin wrung promises from Milosevic to end the Kosovo conflict.

Since then, Serbian security forces have waged an offensive across western Kosovo, ostensibly against guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). Scores of Albanian villages have been razed and 300,000 people driven from their homes.

Pressure among Western governments to restore the NATO threats has grown hugely over the last week after allegations that Serb troops and police massacred several dozen villagers.

Russia, which has Orthodox Church ties with the Serbs, is often described as a traditional ally of Belgrade but also has strong geo-political motives for opposing Western intervention in the southeast Balkans.

Western diplomats and journalists in Kosovo said

the Serbs already appeared to be complying with most U.N. demands after the government said last Monday that the conflict was over and that its forces were returning to barracks.

Around 200 tanks and other military and police vehicles were seen heading out of Kosovo Sunday and reports of fighting over the last few days have been confined to Kosovo's remote mountain border with Albania.

The Belgrade newspaper Dnevni Telegraph said the Serbian government was ready to offer unspecified concessions over Kosovo to head off NATO attacks. The paper, which said it was quoting sources close to the government, added: "The government's full activity is now centred solely on finding the one move that would prevent NATO intervention. The West already knows that we have done everything that is asked for but, despite this, threats of bombing are not abating. On the contrary, they are stronger and stronger."

The government last week renewed its offer of talks which ethnic Albanian leaders have boycotted while their population has been under Serb attack.



Women protesters clap their hands and sing patriotic songs during a peaceful anti-government protest outside Malaysia's National Palace in Kuala Lumpur. At least 100 police, many in riot gear, took position around the palace as the women shouted 'Allahu Akbar' (God is Greatest) and sang patriotic songs (Reuters photo)

Pro-Anwar movements gather momentum

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Support for detained former Deputy Premier Anwar Ibrahim gathered momentum Sunday, with a two-hour peaceful gathering near the National Palace and plans for state rallies in the coming weeks.

But a minister charged that Anwar, who initiated a reform movement when he was sacked from the cabinet on Sept. 2, was attempting a "revolution".

In the first sign of protest since Anwar was charged in court Tuesday and again Wednesday, some 400 people, mostly women, gathered near the National Palace here Sunday afternoon.

The gathering was originally reported to have been organised by a group calling themselves the Women's Movement seeking justice for Anwar but it was unclear who their members were and organisers kept a low profile.

A group of 50 police officers, many of whom were also women, stood guard around the palace. A path leading to the entrance of the palace has been sealed off, blocking tourist buses from making a stop.

The crowd, which also included men and children, gathered on a hillside across the street from the palace entrance and singing songs including the national anthem.

A group of 50 anti-riot police, including a water cannon truck, arrived at the scene

soon after and took positions outside the palace. They did not take action and the crowd dispersed shortly.

A woman who declined to be named, said she was there for "justice and truth" and the gathering was based on "individual initiative".

"Tell the world that we will not tolerate injustices any more," she told reporters.

Meanwhile, a coalition of religious groups and non-governmental organisations is planning a marooned gathering to counter a government rally in the coming week.

The coalition, led by opposition Parti Islam (Pas) and known as "Gerak", is planning a gathering of 500,000 people on Oct. 17 at the national stadium, according to the latest edition of Pas newspaper, Harakah.

Pas president Fadzil Mohammad Noor was quoted as saying that the meeting to allow Gerak "explain its views about the recent political and economical development in the country."

The Gerak gathering is to counter a mass rally organised by the youth wing of the ruling National Front coalition at the stadium this Saturday, as a show of support for Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad.

The coalition was formed on Sept. 27, to campaign for reforms in a challenge to Mahathir's 17-year rule following the arrest of sacked deputy premier Anwar.

It plans to also bring its cause to state-levels and has proposed a "silent demonstration" for justice.

The coalition called on supporters to simultaneously "switch off lights in residential houses for 10 minutes" Tuesday from 8.00 p.m. (1200 GMT) to show that "the light of justice has disappeared and darkness has fallen."

All motorists are told to switch on the lights of their vehicles Wednesday to show that they "miss the light of justice," it said in an advertisement in Harakah.

But Education Minister Najib Tun Razak charged that Anwar "actually attempted to initiate a revolution and not a reformation," Bernama news agency reported.

Najib, one of the three vice-presidents of the ruling United Malays National Organisation (Umno), said Mahathir had offered not to proceed with the case if Anwar were to resign quietly.

"Anwar chose not to resign although he knew the choice he made will be a tough one because he wanted to become prime minister," he said, calling on Umno members to be more "open-minded" and stay calm.

Anwar made his first court appearance Tuesday and again Wednesday, where he denied ten charges of corruption and sodomy. A trial date is expected to be fixed at the High Court Monday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hundreds of police pour into Naples after mob violence

NAPLES, Italy (AP) — Hundreds of police reinforcements poured into the city Sunday after a car bombing and a bazooka attack raised fears of escalating warfare among feuding crime clans. No one was injured when a bazooka was fired Saturday at the gate of a villa on the outskirts of Naples of a suspected boss of the Camorra crime syndicate. Friday a car bomb blew up in a crowded quarter of the city, injuring 13 people. The bomb went off outside a game room frequented by a crime clan. Saturday night, Italy's state police chief Fernando Masone ordered 365 officers from the state police and from the paramilitary Carabinieri unit to take up posts in Naples. Masone arrived in Naples Sunday to map out strategy with local police chiefs. For years now, the Camorra's clans have been waging turf wars for control of illegal betting rackets, extortion rings, drug and arms smuggling and prostitution. Last year, the government ordered about 500 soldiers to the Naples area to help quell growing violence between rival mob groups. The troops replaced police officers protecting public buildings, freeing them up for patrol and investigations. Earlier this decade, soldiers were sent into Sicily to beef up the fight there against the Mafia.

14 people killed in continuing violence in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (AFP) — Sri Lankan troops and Tamil Tiger rebels exchanged mortar fire near a town newly captured by the army in northern Sri Lanka as 14 people were killed in clashes elsewhere in the region, the military said Sunday. A military statement said 12 guerrillas of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), one soldier and a civilian were killed in the clashes Saturday. It said the rebels also fired mortars at troops advancing northwards from Mankulam town, which troops captured in fierce fighting Wednesday. "Terrorists fired mortars at advancing troops and troops retaliated effectively causing heavy casualties among the terrorists," it said, but did not give any figures. Troops also cleared an LTTE trench line northwest of Mankulam, killing six rebels, while army snipers shot dead six more near Paranthan, about 35 kilometres north of Mankulam, it added. It said one soldier and a civilian were killed and two soldiers injured when the rebels targeted a fleet of army vehicles with three claymore mines near the government-controlled town of Vavuniya. The LTTE is fighting for an independent state in the island's northeast for the ethnic Tamils where they are concentrate. More than 55,000 people have died in the conflict since 1972.

Starr knew of Lewinsky trysts from Jones lawyer

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr was tipped off about Bill Clinton's trysts with Monica Lewinsky by an attorney working on the Paula Jones sexual harassment suit against the president, the New York Times reported Sunday. The report supports complaints by Clinton hackers that the Jones attorneys fed information to Starr hoping to open a criminal inquiry, and thus elevate the importance of their own lawsuit. The tip came a week before Linda Tripp went to Starr with the infamous recorded Lewinsky telephone conversations, the Times reported. The connection between Starr and Jones was made by Jerome Marcus, an attorney on the Jones team who quietly informed Starr of Tripp's recordings, then helped Tripp get a lawyer. Marcus went to college with an attorney on the Starr team, the Times reported, and along with other attorneys on both teams belongs to a conservative legal group called the Federalist Society. The report fuels allegations of a "vast, right-wing conspiracy" out to destroy the president that were raised in January by first lady Hillary Clinton. Marcus did not return calls to the newspaper to respond to the allegations, and Starr spokesman Charles Bakaly gave a vague answer concerning Marcus' involvement. Bakaly however told the Times that talk of a conservative conspiracy against Clinton was "merely efforts to divert attention from the facts and evidence that was gathered by this office."

Seven more die of baby-killer virus in Taiwan

TAIPEI (AFP) — Seven more children died of a renewed outbreak of a baby-killer virus as the health department Sunday set up a disease prevention centre in southern Taiwan, reports said. Two of the seven new victims from southern Taiwan was an eight-month old baby and a two-year-old boy, both of whom died of complications from the enterovirus over the past week at Mackay Memorial Hospital in Taipei, newspaper reports said. The Department of Health (DOH) Sunday set up an ad hoc enterovirus prevention centre in the southern Taiwanese city of Kaohsiung and its surrounding counties where the illness was reported to be on the rise in recent weeks. A group of epidemiologists have also been sent to the area to help prevent the spread of the enterovirus, television reports said. DOH urged parents, particularly those in southern Taiwan, to heighten their vigilance against the disease. "If you find your children have a fever and nausea and incline to be sleepy, then you've better to get them to see doctors," DOH spokesman Hsu Kuo-Hsiung warned. Health officials were unavailable for comment on the new deaths which came after a hiatus of more than one month since the last death was reported on July 2. The official toll stands at 57 with newspaper reports saying a total of 812 have been infected since Sept. 25. The virus usually attacked children aged under five. DOH has identified enterovirus type 71 as the cause of the epidemic that began in May. Symptoms include fever, a rash, ulcers in the mouth and on the feet and hands. Doctors estimated at least 200,000 children have contracted the virus since May islandwide. In most cases the virus is not fatal.

Half a tonne of cocaine seized from French boat off Gibraltar

CADIZ, Spain (AFP) — Spanish customs officers said Sunday they had seized half a tonne of cocaine worth \$25 million from a French boat off Gibraltar and arrested the 16-member crew. A customs patrol boarded the 16-metre Crislo, which had come from South America, at dawn Saturday. A search of the boat off the port of Barbate, 50 kilometres south of Cadiz, turned up the drugs with a street value of 3.5 billion pesetas (\$25 million). The two French nationals were not named.

Brazilians begin voting in unprecedented election

SAO PAULO (R) — Brazilians began voting Sunday in a general election widely expected to give President Fernando Henrique Cardoso an unprecedented second term to tackle the nation's worst economic crisis in years.

Polls opened at 7 a.m. (1100 GMT) across Latin America's largest nation, where 106 million voters were due to choose a president, congressmen and state governors.

Voting was scheduled to end at 4 p.m. (2000 GMT), with exit polls due out immediately after.

Analysts said voters headed to the polls believing Cardoso was the most prepared candidate to protect the nation from a crippling devaluation and steer it safely through a global financial storm that has already levelled economies in Asia and Russia.

An election eve poll showed the 67-year-old Social Democrat favoured by 49 per cent of voters compared to 24 per cent for his main challenger, left-wing Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, 53.

The poll put Cardoso 12 points ahead of the combined total of his rivals. Cardoso needs just one vote more than all his opponents together to avoid a run-off poll on Oct. 25.

Cardoso's support stems from his reputation as an economic problem-solver, which he earned by introducing

a stable currency, the real, and slashing inflation to just 1 per cent from nearly 3,000 per cent when he was elected in 1994.

Four years of stable growth has made consumers out of some 30 million poor Brazilians, who for the first time in their lives have been able to buy appliances like toasters, blenders and hair dryers.

Cardoso was set to become Brazil's first reelected president, having convinced congress in 1997 to overturn a ban on executive office holders serving two consecutive terms.

In addition to the president, Brazilians will choose state governors and congressmen. The governor's race in the key state of Sao Paulo was close and expected to be decided later in the month in a second-round vote.

Most observers said the current make-up of congress — with an assortment of more than 20 political parties — was unlikely to change significantly Sunday when all of the lower house seats and a third of the senate are up for grabs.

A fleet of helicopters, river barges, air force planes and horse drawn carriages were being deployed to distribute ballots over an area larger than the continental United States.

Voting is mandatory for all Brazilians aged 18-70 and Sunday's election is the largest in Latin America history.

To simplify vote-count-

ing, election officials say half of Brazil's 106 million voters will make their decision by punching in numbers on computerised ballot boxes.

All of the electronic votes should be counted within 24 hours, with the final tally from paper ballots due Friday, election officials said.

Brazil's looming economic crisis has overshadowed the election over the past three weeks.

Since Russia's devaluation in mid-August, investors have yanked some \$30 billion out of Brazil, throwing the nation into its most precarious economic situation since it defaulted on foreign debt in 1982.

Economists say the ensuing confidence crisis in financial markets will only be put to rest when Brazil secures an emergency credit line from the International Monetary Fund and other world bodies. That will come, economists say, only after Brazil adopts austerity measures that will almost certainly hurt the economy into recession next year.

Global leaders are paying close attention to Brazil, whose \$800 billion economy accounts for 45 per cent of Latin America's gross domestic product and is nearly twice the size of Russia's and Mexico's.

If it collapses, it will likely take the rest of Latin America down with it, which could spark a marked slowdown in the U.S. economy.

Omagh car bomb suspect released

DUBLIN, Ireland (UPI) — A suspect in the Aug. 15 Omagh, Northern Ireland, car bomb blast that killed 29 people and wounded 370 is free after a judge ruled the anti-terrorism laws used to hold him are unconstitutional.

Twenty-three-year-old Deaglan Lavery was freed today after an Irish Republic high court judge in Dublin ordered his release from custody because police denied his lawyer access to Lavery, and to police interrogation notes.

Judge Catherine McGuinness' ruling directly

challenges Irish and British anti-terrorism laws newly enacted after the deadly bombing.

The laws were designed to allow police to question dissident IRA suspects for up to 96 hours without benefit of a lawyer, and without formal charges.

Lavery was among three men arrested Wednesday on suspicion of handling the stolen car packed with 500 pounds of home-made explosives that blew up in Omagh.

So far, police on both sides of the border have arrested 21 people suspected of involvement. All have

been released.

Meanwhile, a leader of the party accused of being the political wing of a key dissident IRA group says the dissidents are more committed than ever to ending the British presence in Northern Ireland.

In a published interview, Bernadette Sands-McKevitt describes the bombing as a tragedy but insists that what she calls "acceptance of British rule" will not prevent similar incidents.

She is vice-chairman of the 32 Counties Sovereignty Committee, which represents the dissident group, the Real IRA.

Claus, Antunes picks for 1998 Nobel literary prize

STOCKHOLM (R) — Portugal's Antonio Lobo Antunes and Belgium's Hugo Claus were among the names on the lips of literary experts Sunday as possible winners of the 1998 Nobel Prize in Literature, the most sought after award for writers.

But anyone's guess was good this year about who would win, and no clues had slipped out from the secretive Swedish Academy whose 18 members award the prize each year.

The academy does not even say when the prize will be announced, just that it will be, as always, on a Thursday in October. The date will be announced only two days before.

Like clockwork, academy secretary Sture Allen is expected to emerge at 1 p.m. on that Thursday from the gilded room in Stockholm's Old Town where the committee meets and read out the winner's name.

Some said the august committee's decision to give last year's prize to radical Italian playwright and actor Dario Fo made the prize even harder to call this year.

"Judging from what has been chosen in recent years I wouldn't dare to say," said Susanne Eversmann, an editor at a German publishing house.

"It's always the best known writers from each country like Germany's Guenter Grass or Portugal's Jose Saramago who come up,

but it's not them. It seems like a national lottery," she said.

The windfall from the prize is as good as a lottery. Besides the honour of winning the most coveted prize in the literary world, the award carries a purse of 7.6 million crowns — currently nearly \$1 million.

The prize is handed over by Sweden's King Carl Gustav XVI at a ceremony in Stockholm on Dec. 10.

Other names from the rumour mill once again were Cees Nooteboom of The Netherlands, Mexican author Carlos Fuentes, Peru's Mario Vargas Llosa, Jorge Amado of Brazil and Chinese poet Bei Dao.

"No new names have come up this year, just the same as usual," said Karin Dahlblom, manager of fiction literature at Sweden's largest book seller, Akademibokhandeln.

A bookstore can count on brisk sales of a Nobel winner's work for Christmas, but some are better sellers than others.

South African writer Nadine Gordimer who won in 1991 or Toni Morrison of the United States, the 1993 winner, were especially good at producing sales. Dahlblom said.

"Lyrics and drama are more difficult but to some people it doesn't matter — they just want the Noble prizewinner's work," Dahlblom told Reuters.

Poet Tomas Transtromer

and children's book writer Astrid Lindgren, who turns 91 this year, would probably stir criticism if they won because they were Swedish.

"I would be quite pleased if it would be Lindgren. I don't expect it to be a Dutch writer this year because in the past there had been talk about the Nobel prize in the newspapers and this year there's not," said Barber van de Pol, a Dutch writer.

The Swedish Academy accepts nominations before Feb. 1 for the literature prize from Nobel prizewinners, other academics or similar groups, universities or professors.

A list of over 200 authors must be whittled down in about six months by the committees during its weekly debates Thursdays at 5 p.m. local time.

The prize was created in the legacy in 1896 of Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, who also set up awards for the sciences.

The winners of this year's physiology and medicine prize will be announced on Oct. 12, and the physics and chemistry prizes on Oct. 13. Since 1968 Sweden's central bank, the Riksbank, has funded a Nobel prize in economics, whose winner will be announced on Oct. 14.

The winner of the Nobel peace prize, chosen by the Norwegian Nobel Committee, will be announced in Oslo on Oct. 16.

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Cooling mechanism a must

THE MIDDLE EAST region cannot afford to have a new armed conflict of the magnitude that a confrontation between Syria and Turkey could bring about.

That is why the region witnesses a flurry of diplomatic efforts that aim to cool the tempers of the generals. That the two countries have grievances against each other is a foregone conclusion. But that they did little talking about them over the years has led to a festering of these grievances. At present the situation is a time bomb threatening to engulf them in devastating armed struggle.

As the official Jordanian communiqué on the stand-off suggested on Saturday, the two neighbours need to examine their differences anew and determine their causes if they are to find an equitable and peaceful solution to the conflict. Without exhaustively discussing the grievances of both in a formal and institutional framework, there can be no end to the tension between them.

The first step therefore is to find the mechanism for such purposes. Unfortunately there is no regional conflict resolution mechanism yet, something Jordan has advocated for a long time. In the absence of such a system in the Middle East, Turkey and Syria could establish their own joint committees on several fronts to deal with all their disputes, be it on the water sharing of the Euphrates or the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), or the military cooperation between Turkey and Israel that Damascus suspects is directed against it.

Above all, the resolution of all these topics must take into consideration not only the national interests of the parties but also the interests of the entire region. All the differences between Turkey and Syria have regional implications, and thus should be considered in the wider contexts. There are already well-established ground rules on the equitable sharing of transnational rivers. The PKK's armed conflict with the central authority in Turkey is also subject to binding principles. Military cooperation between countries must also take into consideration the fears of others. Once the two sides put in place a permanent system for conflict resolution, their problems are bound to be contained if not settled altogether.

Meanwhile, all countries in the region should contribute to containing the conflict and easing the tension. Egypt has already offered its good offices. Others, who maintain good relations with one or the other party, should also intervene. After all, a clash between Turkey and Syria will result in resentments and sentiments that very few can afford to witness.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fahed Fanek said Turkey's aggression towards Syria anger Arabs and leads the region into unknown territory. Turkey's excuse for the aggression is Syria's support for the Kurdish Labour Party, but the real reason is Syria's diplomatic efforts and media campaign to garner Arab public support against Turkey's alliance with Israel, the writer claimed. The Israeli-Turkish alliance cannot be purely defensive, because Turkey is a member of NATO and does not need Israel's military support, and nor is Turkey threatened by any country in the region, Fanek said. The EU did not accept Turkey as a member, and it has no choice except to look to the Arab World at least for economic reasons, if the country wants to avoid losing out in the long run, the writer claimed. Regardless of Syria's policies in the area, Turkey's threats are not acceptable, and Jordan, which have always looked for good relations with Turkey, feels embarrassed by such actions.

Al Dostour's editorial said that the time has come for a serious dialogue between Arab countries to end the Syrian-Turkish problem. The Turkish prime minister is intent on increasing the intensity of the crises by announcing military manoeuvres on the borders between the two countries. It is noticeable that the sudden Turkish escalation has come at a time when the region is suffering from a series of problems including the deadlocked peace treaty, said the editorial. The problem is related to certain historical problems between the countries about terrorism, water and borders. The editorial urged all parties to find a proper way to maintain both countries' rights while avoiding a military confrontation.

Economic review

The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Dr. Yusuf Mansur

THERE IS DEFINITELY some good, bad and ugly policies out there. It seemed from a simple review of some of the policies that came to one's attention last week that the title of a spaghetti Western by Clint Eastwood (before he became famous and his talent for mixing foul language and bad acting became, together with a huge Adam's apple, a hallmark sought by most households) would be most fitting.

Hark, O' ye of bad productions! These bad policies will cost the nation a "Fistful of Dollars," and even "A Few Dollars More."

At a time when even the most optimistic economic analyst would be treading with masterful trepidation and care, some policies emerge with all the qualities reminiscent of what has made the economy lose its competitiveness.

These policies carry with them a plethora of impacts that are, to say the least, not oozed at this moment in time.

But first let us start with the good policies. Last week, a historic meeting between the public and private sectors took place to shed some light on the troubles of the ailing construction sector.

During the meeting chaired by the minister of state for economic development, the minister of public works presented a paper urging the public sector to take into account quality and not only cost.

In other words, picking the lowest bid in a tendering process is to be no more! Instead, the best bids will be the winners. Why is this a "historic" undertaking?

Because Jordan badly needs to enforce standards and quality, and who is better qualified than the public sector, the largest buyer, to initiate the process.

Tagging the cheapest product as the best is an invitation to employ the cheapest resources to produce public works. Making quality a required input in the decision

process would prompt people to hire those resources that are most skilled to create a better Jordan.

Such a policy is nothing short of a great revolution; an industrial leap whose benefits will spill over to all sectors.

Last week a head of one of the few large and productive NGOs complained about a recent policy that increases the registration costs for cars with yellow licence plates that foreign NGOs and regional offices are allowed to own while operating in the Kingdom. He claimed that the yearly registration cost is ten times the registration fees charged to normal cars, making a Pajero and other large off-the-road vehicles, a favourite among NGO directors, because it allows them to travel to the rural areas they are trying to help and develop, cost its owner almost JD3000 per annum in registration fees. Besides possibly increasing the revenues of the state, what is the logic, or illogic, behind such a policy? The idea is to put the squeeze on Jordanians who use the regional office idea as a backdoor to own duty-free cars and thus abuse a concept that has been used to encourage investment.

While some may view such an abuse as "bad," it is definitely not the view of everyone, including this author for whom the remedy seems like chemotherapy, which kills not only bad cancerous cells but also good cells.

Indeed, this is a bad policy that leads to what is known in economics as "adverse selection" where only the bad will stay in the market.

Good NGOs, especially those that choose to serve the region from Jordan and who pump millions of dollars in grants into the country, will move their headquarters to other countries in the region. This would be outrageous, because the Treasury would then lose greater revenues and, worse still, Jordan would lose the good efforts and work of these organisations; a loss which it cannot afford. The loss of ESCWA, which moved last year to a

neighbouring country, continues to be felt by researchers, landlords, labour, and the utility companies among others in Jordan. Does Jordan need to lose the rest? Last Saturday, a reader of this newspaper wrote apologising to foreign workers whom she claimed were being picked up at random in the streets to investigate the status and validity of their work permits.

A better solution would be aimed at the root of the problem. The focus should also be on the demand for illegal foreign labourers, not simply the supply. For example, another approach would have entailed a mapping of all illegal aliens residing in the Kingdom together with their locations and places of hire.

An analysis would follow to explain why the different groups choose Jordan and why they are able to replace the domestic labour force.

Labour that accepts low paying jobs not economically acceptable to Jordanians would allow the more skilled to use their comparative advantages.

For example, having the opportunity to employ a domestic worker enables a highly skilled lawyer to pursue her career in the courtroom rather than being underemployed at home. Even though the domestic worker may be an expatriate and his/her savings would be remitted overseas thus increasing balance of payments deficit, the whole GDP would increase because instead of one person's labour being wasted in a non-optimal employment, two people are optimally employed and in accordance with their comparative advantages. When John Maynard Keynes, the greatest economist in modern times, was criticised for having changed his views often, he responded: "When I find I am wrong I change my mind, what do you do?" In short, policy makers should change their minds sometimes to create better policy.

The time is ripe for positive changes, let's not wait too long.

M. KAHIL



LETTERS

Real terrorists own up!

To the editor:

AT LAST, after six years, "Israeli" authorities have been forced to admit that the El Al transport plane which crashed in 1992 in the Amsterdam area killing people on the ground as well as all aboard, carried the essential ingredients for the deadly nerve gas Sarin, a weapon of mass destruction. Destined for a "research laboratory" near Tel Aviv and originating in the United States, these chemicals, in addition to various nuclear materials, constituted a grave hazard to the residents of the crash area and especially to crews of fire-fighters and rescue workers. Yet the existence and potential danger of this secret cargo were concealed in the interests of the sacred cow of "Israeli" security, as a consequence of which these public servants carried out their work with bare hands, minus any protective clothing to prevent possibly fatal injury.

Contrast this scenario with the bombing of the Sudanese Shifa Pharmaceutical Factory by the U.S. in August of this year. Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark investigated this facility and concluded that there were no lethal chemicals involved in its operation and that its targeting by the Clinton administration was purely political in motivation. Furthermore, my e-mail brought me an illuminating interview by Ibrahim Aloush, editor of the Free Arab Voice, (<http://WWW.mindspring.com/~fav>) with Ahmed Saleem, builder and manager of the Shifa Pharmaceutical Factory. Mr. Saleem stated the history of the facility, his life-work, providing information about its funding which has been completely through private investment without any Sudanese governmental input, and explaining its medicinal production: chiefly paracetamol and penicillins for humans plus a separate plant for veterinary products, both types of products supplying a great percentage of the needs of Sudan and other African communities. Plans and drawings for the facility — those which were not destroyed in the air-strike — are available for inspection, Mr. Saleem said.

Though the arrogance of "the only superpower" and its satellite makes this unlikely, surely some apology is in order, both to the victims of hazardous materials in Amsterdam and those deprived of the life work of the Shifa Factory in Khartoum. Will the REAL terrorists please stand up?

Dr. A. Clare Brandabur
 English Department
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 Irbid, Jordan.

The odd couple: Islam and the West

By Gwynne Dyer

IN THE United States, controversy is building around the 20th Century Fox film 'The Siege', scheduled for release in November, in which a wave of bombing in New York by Islamic militants leads to the declaration of martial law, and the mass internment of American Muslims and Arab-Americans.

In the Vatican City, the Pope and his theological advisers begin a week-long meeting on Monday to discuss the text of a final, definitive "sorry" for all the errors and brutalities the Church has committed over two millennia, from the Inquisition to the role of Catholics in the Holocaust. The act of repentance is to be delivered on 8 March, 2000 by Karol Wojtyla himself — and the odds are good that it will even include an apology for the Crusades.

Meanwhile, at the United Nations, Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi and British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook met to put an official end to ten years of Iranian threats against British novelist Salman Rushdie's life, and to re-establish normal relations between the two countries. As usual, the complex relationship between Islam and the West is generating a lot of traffic. And as usual, nothing is quite what it seems.

"It looks like it's over," said a surprised Salman Rushdie, rejoicing in the news that the Iranian government has promised to do nothing further to threaten his life, and dissociated itself from the offer of a \$2.5 million reward to anyone who kills him. "It means everything. It means freedom." But it

means nothing of the sort: Rushdie will never be safe.

The reward was actually put up by the 15 Khordad Foundation, a militant Islamic organisation that has never withdrawn it. And the original fatwa condemning Rushdie to death that Ayatollah Khomeini issued almost two years ago, having been told that Rushdie's novel 'The Satanic Verses' contained blasphemous passages, will never be cancelled. The late ayatollah has virtually the status of a saint in Shiite Islam, and cannot be second-guessed by a mere government.

The present government of Iran wasn't trying to kill Rushdie anyway. Previous governments may have sponsored some of the more than two dozen Iranian hit men that Rushdie says have been caught and expelled from Britain in the past decade, but certainly there have been none with official backing since President Mohammad Khatami was elected by a landslide vote last year.

Khatami's goal is to democratise Iran and normalise its relations with the rest of the world, but it's an uphill struggle. The religious conservatives who want to maintain a clerical stranglehold on Iran's government are deeply entrenched, and they use their power to close down pro-Khatami newspapers and jail his allies on trumped-up corruption charges. At the moment, they are also working on a war with Afghanistan to bolster their position.

But this is where things get complicated. The Taliban militia that now control over 90 per cent of Afghanistan are so radical in their conservatism — they will not even let females go to school — that they shock even

the Iranian mullahs. Yet they have been secretly financed and armed by the United States and its Pakistani and Saudi allies. Why? Because if the Taliban can pacify Afghanistan, then American oil companies can build a pipeline across it — instead of across Iran, the other obvious candidate.

So is it really about religion, or is it about money, or maybe about 'geopolitics'? It's about them all — but ordinary foreign policy takes on a special quality when the protagonists are Muslims and Christians, for the relationship is very old and very tangled.

Take, for example, the Crusades, launched by Pope Urban II in 1095, for which the Vatican is preparing an apology — as if wicked Christians had made an unprovoked assault on innocent Muslims.

The contemporary West is so used to being powerful that it has forgotten the Crusades were a counter-offensive, meant to recover formerly Christian lands that had been conquered by Muslims only three centuries before. It was part of a thousand-year struggle between Islam and Christendom, twin heirs of the Jewish tradition, in which the Christians were the underdogs most of the time.

The only right time for Christians to apologise for the conquest of Jerusalem in 1099 would be at exactly the same time that Muslims apologised for the conquest of Jerusalem in 637. Muslims could apologise for the conquest of Christian Egypt in 672, and Christians could apologise for the conquest of Muslim Egypt in the 19th century. And Muslims and Christians could both apologise for conquering India.

Muslims, having donned the mantle of victims, never dream of apologising for their history — but a unilateral apology by the Pope is mere condescension masquerading as penitence. And exactly the same attitude infects the producers of the film 'The Siege'.

Director Edward Zwick thinks that a movie about Muslim terrorists massacring Americans, and the U.S. responding by internment American Muslims, is just fine. The hero, after all, is an Arab-American FBI agent who is torn between his loyalty to the U.S. and his horror at "undue and overzealous targeting of a particular ethnic group."

"They thought they were being very sensitive; that's why they shared the script with us," said Hala Maksoud of American-Arab Anti-Discrimination League. "They thought we would approve." But to Zwick's surprise, the league did not approve of the third action movie in a row by 20th Century Fox (after 'Executive Decision' and 'True Lies') in which the anti-American villains are Muslims or Arabs — and it plans to picket theatres when the film opens.

Just another week along the Christian-Muslim fault line. In their various ways they are all trying to bridge the gap — Cook and Kharrazi, Khatami and Rushdie, Wojtyla and Zwick and Maksoud — but the past is so huge a burden that it's almost impossible to get it right. And most people, of course, don't even try.

The writer is a London-based freelance journalist and historian, whose articles are published in 45 countries.

Features

Large, mysterious site of Umm Ubtulah guards north bank of Wadi Hasa

By Rami G. Khouri

ONE OF THE largest and most intriguing ancient sites in all of Jordan — and also one of the most difficult to reach — stands silent guard overlooking the Wadi Hasa from its north bank, still challenging archaeologists and historians to piece together the story of its ancient human settlement and use. The site, called Umm Ubtulah, is a walled hill-side and hill-top settlement measuring about 520 metres long on its north-south axis and about 250 metres wide at its greatest east-west extent.

The site has never been excavated, but it was thoroughly surveyed and pottery was collected from its surface in 1982-83 by a team headed by the Canadian scholar Dr. Burton MacDonald of St. Francis Xavier University. They discovered the site during the survey of the south bank of Wadi Hasa.

Umm Ubtulah (the name used by the local bedouins and occasional farmers in the area) is divided into two distinct sections that are separated by a natural rock shelf. An almost rectangular upper segment on the summit of the site measures some 270 x 115 metres; the more irregularly shaped lower segment on the hill-side down to the Wadi Hasa gorge measures 250 x 230 metres at its widest points.

It is not clear if the two parts of the site were used at the same time, according to Dr. MacDonald. The pottery his team collected during three visits to Umm Ubtulah made their interpretation of the site's ancient use rather complex. The sherds from the upper area were almost exclusively from the Early Bronze Age (around 3300-2000 BC), and probably more specifically from the Early Bronze I period (c. 3300-3000 BC); but the pottery on the lower part of the site dated mostly from the Nabataean-Early Roman period (1st-2nd Century AD). Also, the lower segment of the site had a few sherds from other periods, notably the Early Bronze, Late Roman, Byzantine,



View of Umm Ubtulah from the south, looking north. The lower site is the walled area in centre-left of photo, and the upper site is on the summit of the hill directly above it. The Wadi Hasa snakes around the right and bottom of photo (Photo courtesy of Dr. Burton MacDonald)

and Late Islamic-Ottoman. The combination of the pottery and the visible architectural remains suggests to Dr. MacDonald that this "was probably a Nabataean and/or Roman camp which was associated with a line of fortresses and watchtowers from the same period along the south bank of Wadi Hasa."

The concentration of exclusively Early Bronze Age sherds on the summit and the presence of pottery from other periods indicate that at least sections of Umm Ubtulah were "inhabited" during the Early Bronze, Byzantine and Late Islamic periods, he says, yet the architecture of the site remains "problematic."

Fortifications

The construction techniques of the enclosure wall seem to be the same on the upper and lower segments of the site, but it is not clear if both were used at the same time. The limestone wall is made of two faces with rubble filling in between, without any

mortar. It averages 1.5 metres thick and still stands a metre high in places.

Two 'towers' appear to interrupt the wall at its northern and western points on the summit, measuring 20 and 12 metres in diameter. A small 'gate' almost two metres wide pierces the south-eastern segment of the upper wall; from inside the wall the gate is flanked by two structures measuring 2.7 metres square.

Immediately below this gate, in the wadi bottom below, is a pool of water called Birket Umm Ubtulah, whose water today is pumped to irrigate nearby fields of wheat and vegetables. No sign is visible of any ancient path between the gate and the pool. The pool and a rock cut channel leading from it are both probably modern structures.

The remains of an apparent ancient cistern were traced in the south-east corner of the lower site, the direction of the natural rainwater runoff, where traces of an inner wall have also been doc-

umented. Dr. MacDonald wonders whether this wall was built in antiquity to replace the original external wall, which has completely eroded in this area. Much of the south-eastern corner of the site is badly eroded.

Inside the walls of Umm Ubtulah are rows of neatly arranged built structures that descend the slope in a terrace-step-like manner, in both the upper and lower segments of the site. These rectangular limestone structures are made of large field stones piled up into pillars, with smaller stones lying between the pillars (some pillars still stand a metre high in places). The successive faces of the terraces supporting the structures are 6.4-to-4.8 metres distance from one another. The structures on the lower segment of the site average 2.6-to-3.2 metres width, and are also arranged in terrace-like rows on the very steep lower slope.

Military role likely

"These structures are so regularly aligned that they give the impression of a military settlement," Dr. MacDonald said in a recent interview. Indeed, the arrangement of the internal buildings is very similar to that at known Roman fortresses, such as Lejjun on the Karak Plateau to the north.

A military role seems the most likely explanation of the site's use in the Nabataean/Early Roman era, according to the evidence from the Wadi Hasa survey: Dr. MacDonald's team documented a string of fortresses and watchtowers running in an east-west direction, from Hasa town (along the Desert Highway) to Ghor es-Saffi in the south-west plain of the Dead Sea.

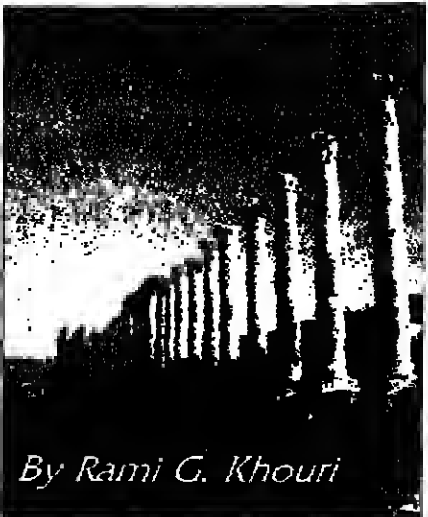
A similar massive walled site called Umm et-Tawabeen is located on a hilltop near Safi town in the Jordan Valley. It may have formed the westernmost outpost of this string of military installations that guarded the area and controlled traffic along the wadi route from

the highland plateau to the Dead Sea coast.

The main Roman road, the Via Nova Traiana (Trajan's New Road), passed in a north-south direction some ten kilometres to the west of Umm Ubtulah. The military monitoring zone identified by the Wadi Hasa Survey probably controlled traffic along this primary route and several other roads in the Nabataean-Roman era, including Nabataean roads that certainly existed before the advent of Roman control in 106 AD.

The Nabataeans seem to have used the wadis, including the wadi bottoms and ridges, more extensively than people in other historical periods, the Wadi Hasa survey hypothesised.

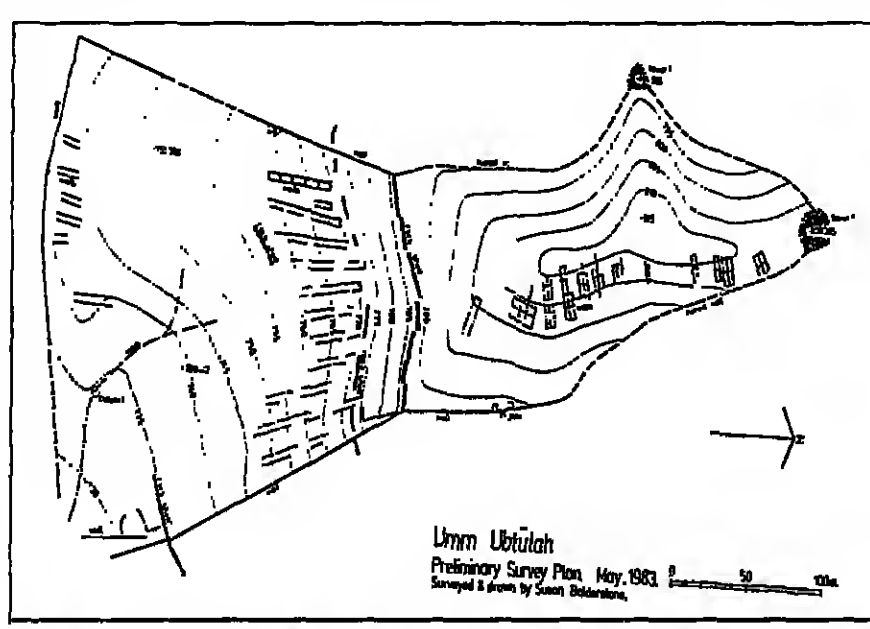
Umm Ubtulah is located in a huge bend in the Wadi Hasa, actually on the north bank of the wadi. It is best viewed from the south bank, but is very difficult to reach. It sits some 22 kilometres west of the Desert Highway, almost halfway between that road and the King's Highway to the west. The most practical route to



By Rami G. Khouri

it is by four-wheel-drive vehicle from the Desert Highway, past the Ottoman era fort and parallel to the route of the Wadi Hasa. Along the wadi to the east, from Ruweih village, access on foot or pack animal is possible but strenuous.

The immediate environment of the site is very lush, with plentiful water and fertile fields, and thick vegetation immediately flanking the wadi. Sheep, goat and camel are herded in the region today, while wheat and tomatoes appear to be the favoured crops. Nobody lives in the immediate vicinity of the site, but rather people use its agricultural lands seasonally.



Plan of Umm Ubtulah, showing the lower site at left and the upper site at right, including the built structures inside the walls of both areas and the two 'towers' at top-right of plan (Plan by Susan Balderstone)

Afghanistan's health care in critical condition

By Kathy Gannon
Associated Press

EVER A minor illness can be fatal in today's Afghanistan. Most humanitarian aid groups have pulled out of the beleaguered capital of Kabul rather than head an order from the ruling Taliban religious army to move into abandoned university dormitories.

The few foreigners left behind by the International Red Cross and the World Health Organisation race around trying to help local health workers keep dozens of clinics and 14 hospitals running with few medical supplies.

After two decades of war, Afghanistan is an all too easy place to get sick or wounded. Apart from causing injuries, artillery, rocket and mortar fire have wrecked the city's water, sewage and sanitation systems, inviting epidemics like the current cholera outbreak in Kabul.

Mohammed Daim Kakar, a director for WHO, the United Nations health agency, said medical supplies are critically needed by the infectious diseases control centre.

But even treating minor maladies is a daunting job in overflowing civilian hospitals that often have to turn away the sick. "We are short of everything — medicines, equipment, doctors," said Maruf Aram, deputy head of the medical department at Aliabad Hospital, once one of Kabul's finest.

Outside Aliabad, a teaching hospital that used to attract the country's best doctors, patients in unwashed clothes carry their own intravenous drips as they shuffle around the compound. A white and red ambulance, though much needed, sits in the parking lot, sagging on a flat tyre, its headlights smashed.

ing kin. An old man, barely able to hold his head up, gets a haircut from his son.

Not even the original Afghani survives. Four years of warfare between rival Islamic factions left the building in ruins, forcing relocation to a shabby maternity hospital, where the steel beds are barely covered with tattered sheets.

Most of the hospital's windows are broken, and the building's last coat of paint is little more than a memory.

The hospital is so short of drugs that patients have to buy their own at local markets. If they can't afford them, "that's their problem," Aram said.

Not even doctors have money, because few have seen their roughly \$10-a-month wage in four or five months.

"We have no economy, but we do what we can," said Sher Mohammed Stanikzai, deputy public health minister for the Taliban government. "We provide some essential medicines and equipment, but there is very little money." The Red Cross says it cannot fill the gap left by the departure of humanitarian groups.

Even before the aid groups pulled out, health care was a sensitive issue because the Taliban ordered the segregation of male and female patients and dismissed female health care workers.

Since seizing Kabul in 1996, Taliban militiamen have imposed a restrictive brand of Islam that bans women from working and prevents girls from going to school.

Out of necessity, Taliban leaders relented and allowed many female nurses and doctors to return to work, but insisted they wear all-enveloping robes and treat only women. Then the Taliban ordered all women to work and be treated at one hospital — the Rabia Balkhi Hos-

pital.

But while some hospitals remain off limits, except in emergencies, WHO says beds are beginning to open up for female patients at the two hospitals supplied by the Red Cross.

According to a WHO survey, there are 1,157 hospital and clinic beds available for women and 1,531 beds for men.

At the women-only Rabia Balkhi Hospital, its director and the only woman among the Taliban's hierarchy, Seliana Nabizada says she is aware of Western criticism of the Taliban's treatment of women.

She watched as the Taliban last year threw out European Union Commissioner Emma Bonino, the trade bloc's top humanitarian aid official, for taking pictures of female patients, a serious offence under Taliban rules. After Bonino's visit, all foreign aid to Rabia Balkhi was stopped, which Nabizada said hurt female patients without fazing the Taliban leadership.

She said the Taliban needs to do more for the health and rights of women. But she is clearly proud of her hospital.

"It's a hospital for women, run by women," she said. She took broken down equipment, such as an X-ray machine that hadn't worked for eight years, and hovered over male technicians until they fixed it. She badgered Taliban leaders into allowing male specialists to treat women, and now has 40 male doctors at her hospital.

"I say to the Taliban leaders: 'You have to accept our rights. We have our rights,'" she said. Unfortunately, substandard health care is one area of sexual equality in Afghanistan.

"In all hospitals in Afghanistan the condition is very bad, and we are included in that also," she said.

Health Safer food for a tastier millennium

By Karen Springen

ORANGE JUICE pasteurised with a pulsed electric field. Guacamole and raw oysters subjected to pressure three times higher than in the deepest part of the ocean. Burgers zapped with gamma rays. These are some of the technologies proposed to help keep the next millennium's food safe by destroying such nasty bacteria as E. Coli 0157: H7 and Vibrio vulnificus. This high-tech barrage alarms some gourmets, who worry that taste will be obliterated along with the microbes. "Yucky is the word," says Sheila Lukins, author of the "USA Cook-book." "I think that's so disgusting."

Increasingly, food processors — who don't want their brand names linked to any of the 9,000 deaths each year related to food poisoning — are adopting hospital-like standards of cleanliness. One such outbreak can cost millions in penalties, lawsuits and lost business. In July, Odwalla Inc. agreed to pay a \$1.5 million fine for selling apple juice that killed a 16-month-old girl and

sickened 70 other people in 1996. In February, beef suppliers agreed to pay the parent company of Jack in the Box, a fast-food chain, \$38.5 million in a settlement over tainted meat that killed four and sickened 600 in 1993.

Microbiologists and food scientists are proposing alternatives to much-debated irradiation techniques, which have raised environmental and worker-safety concerns. At a luncheon earlier this month, National Centre for Food Safety and Technology Director Charles Sizer proudly whipped up no-germ fare such as guacamole processed with 90,000 pounds per square inch of pressure — more than the force unleashed in firing a naval cannon. It allegedly tastes no different from regular guacamole but stays green longer. There are a few drawbacks: High-pressure processing kills only bacteria, not necessarily worker-spread viruses such as hepatitis. And it requires bulky equipment to contain all that pressure; you don't want to have to install a cannon in your kitchen. Sizer's feast also included

orange juice pasteurised at a comparatively low 86 degrees with a pulsed electric field that kills bacteria and increases shelf life without changing the taste. Today orange juice is pasteurised at about 200 degrees, which is why it doesn't taste as sweet as when it's freshly squeezed.

Technologists and consumer advocates — spurred on by the president's creation of an interagency Council on Food Safety last month — are also working on a smorgasbord of other ways to quell germs. Meatpackers can steam-pasteurise carcasses to kill bacteria (but this works only on the surface), seal poultry to prevent intestinal contents from contaminating the meat during processing and use healthy bacteria to crowd out pathogens in animals' intestines. Two weeks ago microbiologists at Cornell University reported that simply switching cattle from a diet of grain to one of hay or fresh grass for five days before slaughter dramatically reduced the incidence of harmful strains of E. Coli. And a year ago, Crystal Farms

started selling eggs pasteurised in their shell (at very low heat) to consumers in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and North Dakota. They are safe to eat raw or undercooked — in everything from egg-nogs to sunny-side-up eggs. And expect more breakthroughs in "aseptic" packaging, the same technology that's brought Americans long-lasting juice boxes for kids.

Manufacturers will still remain dependent on good refrigeration and safe handling by truckers and supermarket employees. Ted Labuza, professor of food science and engineering at the University of Minnesota, has designed a special "tell the truth" tape that records a food's "time-temperature history" and turns a darker grey when the food is spoiled. Maybe soon we'll be able to shed our worries when we indulge in foods like steak tartar, rare hamburgers, mousses, egg-nog and, yes, raw cookie dough. Here's to a tasty future.

— The Economist

Could rabies explain the vampire legend?

By Andrew Quinn
Reuters

COULD RABIES be behind the legend of the vampire? A Spanish neurologist, proposing a novel genesis for one of the most feared ghouls in Western culture, says the tale of the blood-sucking predator may have originated with a major rabies epidemic in Europe in the 1700s.

"Sometimes things that are apparently bizarre and senseless can have a logical explanation," said Juan Gomez-Alonso of Xeral Hospital in Vigo, Spain. His rabid vampire thesis appeared in the issue of the journal Neurology released Monday.

Gomez-Alonso said he had always assumed vampires were fictional creatures from Europe's superstitious past.

"Then one day I saw a classic Dracula film," he said. "I watched the film more as a doctor than as a spectator, and I became so impressed by some obvious similarities between vampires and what happens in rabies, such as aggressiveness and hypersexuality," Gomez-Alonso said he began his research by looking into statistics on rabies symptoms, and found that 25 per cent of rabid men "have a tendency to bite others." He then went to the history books and found that early tales of vampirism frequently coincided with reports of rabies outbreaks in and around the Balkans, stretching back to a particularly devastating epidemic of rabies in dogs, wolves and other animals in Hungary from 1721-28.

Ticking down the characteristics most frequently associated with vampires, Gomez-Alonso said he believed he could explain almost all of them as symptoms of rabies. The vampire's famous aversion to garlic and to mirrors could be

ascribed to hypersensitivity, which comes with rabies infection, according to his theory.

"Men with rabies... react to stimuli such as water, light, odours or mirrors with spasms of the facial and vocal muscles that can cause boarish sounds, bared teeth and frothing at the mouth of bloody fluid," he said.

In the past, he contended, "a man was not considered rabid if he was able to stand the sight of his own image in a mirror." The vampire's voracious sexual appetite and nocturnal habits — depicted in movies and on television as the suave Count Dracula appearing on a moonlit balcony — could be attributed to the effect of rabies on the parts of the brain that help regulate sleep cycles and sexual behaviour.

"Hypersexuality may be a striking manifestation of rabies," Gomez-Alonso wrote in his article, adding that "the literature reports

cases of rabid patients who practised intercourse up to 30 times in a day." The common association of vampires with animals such as wolves and bats could be explained by the fact that those creatures are susceptible to, and often the source of, rabies infection, and can exhibit the same snarling, bloody-mouthed visage as an infected human.

"It would be imaginable that men and beasts with identical ferocious and bizarre behaviour might have been seen as similar malign beings," Gomez-Alonso said.

He said even the vampire's fatal kiss, the bite itself, could be traced to rabies.

"Man has a tendency to bite, both in fighting and in sexual activities," Gomez-Alonso says. "The intensification of such tendency by rabies increases the risk of transmission, as the virus is in saliva and other body secretions."

World Bank points to knowledge gap among nations

WASHINGTON (AP) — The rapid growth in global knowledge is raising the danger that poor countries may fall farther behind wealthy ones, the World Bank said in a report released Sunday.

Millions of the world's poor may be lifted out of poverty because plummeting communications costs make the transfer of knowledge cheaper than ever, the World Bank said.

But the report warned that developing countries are pursuing "a moving target" as rich industrial nations "constantly push the knowledge frontier outward."

To keep up, the report said, developing countries "need not reinvent the wheel or the com-

puter or treatment for malaria.

Rather than recreate existing knowledge, poorer countries have the option of acquiring and adapting knowledge already available in richer countries."

The report, entitled "Knowledge for Development," is the 21st in the bank's annual series. It concludes that rapid access to financial, technical and medical knowledge is crucial to improving the health and living standards of the poor.

"This year's report is about using the world's knowledge to help the poor become healthier and more prosperous," said Joseph Stiglitz, the bank's chief economist. "Knowledge is one

area where government policies can make a difference when resources are scarce."

He pointed to Costa Rica, where life expectancy and infant mortality equal that of many industrial countries even though the Central American nation has one-tenth the income of the United States.

"This is partly due to government efforts to provide information on health and sanitation with emphasis on (disease) prevention," Stiglitz said.

Many of the estimated two million children around the world who die from diarrhoea could be saved if only their parents knew how to prepare a simple solution of water, sugar and

salt, he said.

"Knowledge can make the difference between sickness and health, between poverty and wealth," said Carl Dahlman, main author of the report. "Governments that adopt policies to make the most of knowledge will have major advantage in improving the lives of their citizens."

The report focuses on two types of knowledge that are critical for developing countries:

— How-to knowledge, such as nutrition, birth control, engineering and accounting.

— Knowledge about characteristics, such as product standards, accounting systems or creditworthiness of a firm, which it labels "information problems" that can affect markets.

Typically, developing countries have less know-how than industrial countries, and poor people have less know-how than wealthier people.

The report argues that closing these knowledge gaps — for example through education, better phone systems and openness to exchanges with countries including

trade — can do much to help the world's poor improve their lives.

One of the bank's major objectives highlighted in the report is the bank's drive to

become a clearinghouse for all the development knowledge it has acquired in its 54 years of existence.

By 2000, the bank hopes to have its know-

ledge management system online so that clients, partners and member governments around the world can tap into the bank's know-how.

REUTERS • REUTERS • The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates										
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF	
US Dollar	1.0000	1.6460	0.8881	1.3651	135.46	1.6448	1626.60	1.8554	6.5166	
DE Mark	0.6078	1.0000	0.5371	0.8237	82.33	0.9385	988.21	1.1277	3.3524	
GB Sterling	1.1280	1.8880	1.0000	1.4936	149.36	1.7556	1755.60	2.0048	5.9456	
CH Franc	0.7360	1.2100	0.6720	1.0000	100.00	1.1360	1136.00	1.2700	3.7560	
JP Yen	0.0074	0.0121	0.0067	0.0067	1.0000	0.0094	94.00	0.1061	3.0000	
CA Dollar	0.6473	1.0648	0.5371	0.8237	82.33	1.0000	100.00	1.1277	3.3524	
IT Lira	0.0006	0.0010	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	0.0006	
NL Guilder	0.5390	0.8880	0.5371	0.8237	82.33	0.9385	988.21	1.1277	3.3524	
FR Franc	0.1813	0.2982	0.1813	0.2982	29.82	0.2982	298.20	0.3363	0.9750	

Middle Eastern Currencies										
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP	
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7080	3.7506	0.3770	3.6398	0.3032	3.6727	1503.00	3.3930	
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	1.0000	5.2900	0.5317	5.1337	0.4276	5.1801	2119.89	4.7856	
Saudi Riyal	0.2668	0.1890	1.0000	0.1005	0.97	0.0808	0.98	400.74	0.9047	
Bahraini Dinar	2.4666	1.8000	9.9485	1.0000	9.65	0.8041	9.74	3986.74	9.0000	
Qatar Dinar	3.6727	2.6398	12.3721	1.2436	12.01	1.0000	12.12	4957.94	0.9322	
Kuwait Dinar	3.3930	2.3988	12.3721	1.2436	12.01	1.0000	12.12	4957.94	0.9322	
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0212	0.1026	0.9910	0.0825	1.0000	409.24	0.9238	
Lebanese 1000	0.47	0.4777	2.4954	0.2508	2.4217	0.2017	2.4436	1000.00	2.2575	
Egyptian	0.2947	0.2090	1.1054	0.1111	1.0727	0.0893	1.0824	442.97	0.9322	

Energy										
Oils	Last	Revolt								
Brent	0.00	0.00								
W. Texas	15.65	15.49								
Bonny	0.00	0.00								
Dubai	13.90	14.45								
UL Gas	147.00	147.00								

Metal Prices										
Metal	Bid	Offer								
Gold (oz's)	301	301.5								
Silver (oz's)	5.25	5.28								
Platinum (oz's)	347	350								
AL (3 Months)	1333	1335								
CU (3 Months)	1611	1616								
Zinc (3 Months)	972	976								
Lead (3 Months)	517	520								
NI (3 Months)	4080	4080								

Main Equity Indices										
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	%Chng	High	Low	Pr Cls			
New York	DOW JONES	7784.69	152.16	1.99	7818.16	7750.31	7632.53			
New York	S&P 500	1002.6	16.21	1.64	1005.45	971.89	966.39			
London	FT-SE 100	4750.4	-157.8	-3.22	4897.3	4724.2	4908.2			
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	13223.69	26.57	0.2	13320.2	12973.2	13197.1			
Paris	CAC 40	3039.14	1.13	0.04	3039.14	2881.21	3038.01			
Frankfurt	DAX	3962.5	-263.99	-6.25	4217.8	3869.6	4226.49			


Energy										
Commodity	Last	Delivery								
Coffee (c/lbs)	103.42	Spot								
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1936	Spot								
Sugar (\$/ton)	217.5	Spot								
Wheat (\$/ton)	0	Spot								
Soya (c/lbs)	24.44	Spot								
Tea (\$/kg)	125	Spot								
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot								
Rice (\$/ton)	415	Spot								

JOD Cross Rates										
Currency	Buy	Sell								
US Dollar	0.708	0.710								
GB Sterling	1.2017	1.2077								
DE Mark	0.4295	0.4316								
CH Franc	0.5212	0.5238								
FR Franc	0.1281	0.1287								
JP Yen	0.5218	0.5244								
NL Guilder	0.381	0.3829								
IT Lira	0.4344	0.4368								

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

Oktoberfest

at Radisson SAS Hotel Amman



Radisson SAS Hotel Amman is pleased to announce that the world famous German Festival is coming to Amman this autumn.

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Send CVs to Personnel Manager, P.O. Box 851681, Amman 11185, Jordan by October 10, 1998.

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

1 Across
1 Hattaras
5 Signal light
10 Wound crust
14 Caspian feeder
15 Qaddafi's land
16 Fujimori's land
17 Out-of-date issue
19 Indigo plant
20 Fortas or Vigoda
21 Sicilian volcano
22 Frankish ruler
24 Charles
25 Dangling ornaments
26 Bunting and Rethbone
29 Laborer
30 Post of manners
31 Eye signals
32 Lie a little
35 Head signals
36 Tills
37 Mine vein
38 Half an African fly?

39 North Dakota city
40 Sovereign
41 Where watches are worn
43 Hugely heavy
44 Catholic clerics
46 Bill of fare
47 Palos
48 Verdes, CA
49 Wharton
50 School dog
52 Ye Shoppe
53 Automotive drive system
56 Snowmobile
57 Smith's friend
58 Capri or Wight
59 Jane
60 Miter in Madrid
61 Piece of gossip


1 Down
1 Castro's island
2 Part of U.A.E.
3 Rate of speed

4 Deer kin
5 Column's grooves
6 Paints a word picture
7 Swedish group
8 Bread choice
9 Sets aside (for)
10 Meager
11 Magazine's halfway point
12 Prospero's servant
13 Chicago team
18 Recently
23 Inquires
24 Is not well
25 Kemo Sabe's friend
27 Inclination
28 Famous cookie
29 Small rattler
30 Aviator's badge
31 Bumps on a hog?
33 fix
34 Swiss capital
36 Discards
37 Feast on Oahu

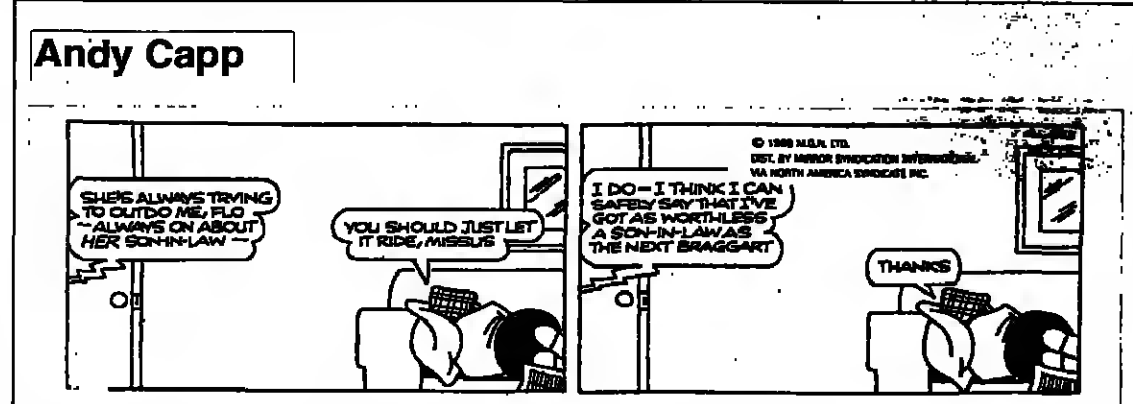
39 Go angling
40 Continue a subscription
49 Tableland
50 Signal to change classes
51 Toward shelter
54 Fish eggs
55 Strike

46 Juicy fruit
48 Trumpet
49 Tableland
50 Signal to change classes
51 Toward shelter
54 Fish eggs
55 Strike

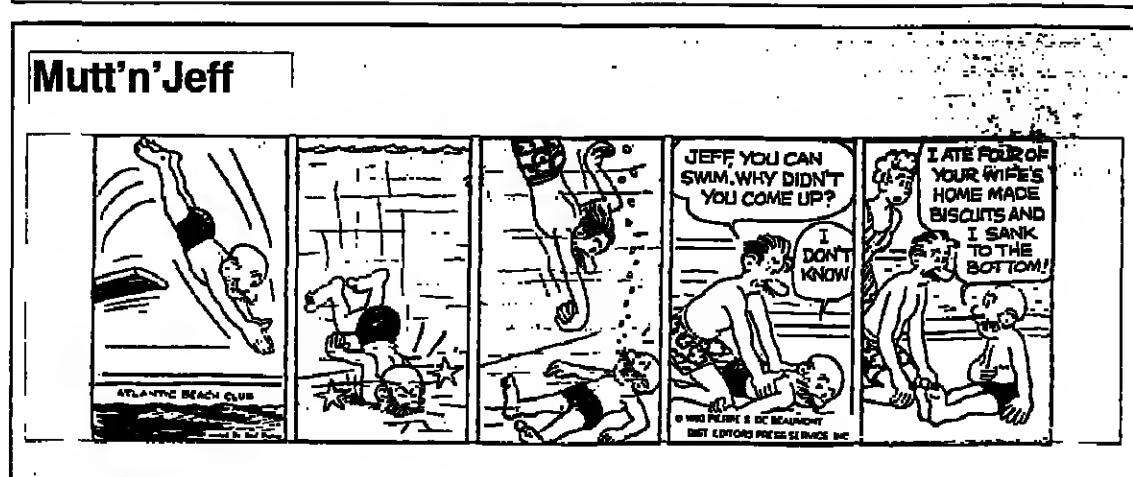
Peanuts



Andy Capp




Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF

By Glasbergen



"I had to take down all our refrigerator magnets. Planes were losing altitude over our house."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YABBE
PUMIO
GROFTE
CRUSIC

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argillon

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumbles: BATON MINCE POWDER ENBALM
Answer: The chubby patients had this at the dietician's office — A WAIT PROBLEM

Busi
D
A r
Jorda
increa
Tabbaa L
economic
MURU
FANCER
URGON
TO ADVE
IN THE
SECTION
567171 EXT. 22
OR
5684311
5686334 EXT. 4

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company increases refining capacity of crude oil

EXPANSION AND modification on the production units of the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company have been completed and the refining capacity stands now at 14,000 tonnes of crude oil, the company's acting director general, Mohammad Khalifeh told Al Ra'i Arabic daily. He indicated that the expansion and modification were carried out at a cost of JD5 million to cover the Kingdom's needs of oil products until the year 2003.

Tabbaa blames Israeli hardline policies for economic slowdown, cancellation of projects

JORDANIAN BUSINESSMEN Association (JBA) President Hamdi Tabbaa blamed the hardline Israeli policies for bringing the region to an economic slowdown and the cancellation of many joint projects which were relied upon by many people although such projects were more to the Israeli benefit than to any other Arab country.

Qadhafi warns Libyan traders to lower prices

TUNIS (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has warned shopkeepers and traders to bring down prices of their goods or face being driven out of the country by angry crowds.

"I advise traders that they don't have a future (in Libya)... Their profits have been too high," Qadhafi said in a speech broadcast by Libyan state television.

"I advise them before (demonstrators) set their shops ablaze to go to another country, go to Africa. Prices must be cut by whatever means, and if they are not cut, there will be violence," the Libyan leader added.

Qadhafi was speaking at the closing session of a meeting of the General People's Congress in the coastal town of Sirte, some 450 kilometres east of Tripoli.

AFM prices continue sliding

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — The stock market's general price index has registered the lowest level since May amid expectations among brokers and investors that the prevailing dull situation will continue at the Amman Financial Market (AFM), brokers said Sunday.

The AFM's daily bulletin indicated that the stock market's index stood at 167.6, or a drop of 1.32 points from Saturday's level, the lowest since May 3.

Amer Muasher, a broker, said the retreat in the price index was due to the fall in the share price of the Kingdom's largest financial institution, the Arab Bank, which lost JD4 of its share value.

"We have never seen such prices since a long time," Muasher told the Jordan Times. "Any decline in the Arab Bank share will affect the market as a whole," he added.

The continuous decline in the share prices, especially the blue chips, have created a frustration among dealers which can not be overcome in a short period," the broker said.

"Something should happen to restore the confidence in the market and also to the major companies. This can only be attained through good results by these firms," Muasher stressed.

"The economic situation in the country is also not encouraging. The investors lack liquidity to invest in the AFM due to the high interest rate on the Jordanian dinar," he said.

"The market is also depressed because of the stalemate in the peace process and the situation in Iraq... I am not optimistic that something can happen in the near future to revive the activity in the market," the broker said.

The AFM's daily report showed that major banks and industrial firms have recorded lower share prices.

JORDAN TIMES
TEL: 5684311
-5699634

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) We have a bar-bet moon now, so you can keep working late by the light of the moon, if that's what you want. You actually might want to do that, since you're full of energy and your initial plans took longer than expected. You're running into a bit of opposition. Empower by expanding to include it.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) There's a beautiful harvest moon tonight. For you, it means more time to work. That's what a harvest moon is. It provides light to bring in the crops by. Maybe you have crops to bring in, but it's more likely paperwork to do. Do it by moonlight if you want, but get it done. Tomorrow you'll be off to other things.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Team activities require lots of attention today. You and your group can win a game you're involved in together, but there's a price to pay. It means time away from once you love. That's unfortunate, but it won't last much longer. Put in the extra work now and schedule your romantic interlude for Friday night.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) Should you push for success in your career or opt for more time at home? You could have the best of both worlds. How about finding a job you can do from your home? Did you know that, on average, home office entrepreneurs make more money than the nine-to-five crowd? Give it some thought.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If you get your errands out of the way early, you might be able to go out this evening, but it'll be a real challenge. Your sweetheart will come up with all sorts of things at the last minute that need to be done. You'll have to enrol him or her in your project in order to make it happen.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get your money in order so you can try something bold. You'll be feeling more outrageous soon, due to Mars coming into your sign. Confusion is predicted for Thursday and Friday, but change is most possible then. A rather stressful but exciting Saturday leads to a good reason to celebrate on Sunday.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) A confrontation causes you to take action in a direction you didn't expect. You may have to hustle to figure out how you're going to pay for it. One thing's for sure. Your life will never be the same. Details are about to take on even greater importance, so make sure you spot-check everything.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't give in to panic if the work's too tough today. By tomorrow, it'll make sense and you'll start seeing results. You're looking good to a partner. That good impression will start a domino effect, resulting in a new opportunity for you. Turn that into another source of funds to pay off debts, and the pressure will ease.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This should be a pretty good week for you. Play with love on Monday and you'll win. Don't goof around on Tuesday or Wednesday, however. Schedule your dates for Thursday and Friday and give yourself plenty of time to talk. Share the load on Saturday and watch for a great deal on Sunday.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Spend today fixing up something about your place that broke over the weekend. Save your big date for the middle of the week. Schedule paperwork for Thursday and Friday and a date with your favourite mate for Saturday night. The fog will clear on Sunday morning, and it'll be easy to spot the problem areas.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Gather information today, so you can make your big decision Tuesday or Wednesday. Lenders will be more willing to part with their money after Wednesday, if that's a consideration. Romance looks good from late Thursday through most of Saturday. Those are also good times for travel, but get back in time to finish chores on Sunday.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Better balance the chequebook before you pay the bills. If you wait until tomorrow or the next day to shop, you'll find better deals, because you'll be looking for them. A partner starts getting feisty around Wednesday, which could cause confusion on Thursday and Friday. Be the peacemaker. This is a great weekend for romance.

Birthstone of September: Opal — Tourmaline

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHOKHSAH TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607170 ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 04/10/1998

PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
315.500	170.000	ARAB BANK	17.2	0.05	66	1400	204340	214.00	210.00	4.00-
1.210	1.550	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	12.6	0.00	3	458	1748	1.45	1.55	0.10-
3.200	1.000	BANK OF JORDAN	2	0.00	5	35400	36108	1.03	1.02	0.01-
1.300	0.870	NID. EAST INV. BK.	50.1	0.00	4	3750	3375	0.84	0.90	0.06-
4.480	1.550	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	11.1	0.00	1	1500	1590	1.58	1.58	0.00
6.510	2.610	THE HOUSING BK.	18.1	3.50	31	33246	05720	2.88	2.86	0.02-
3.450	1.760	JOR. KUNAFI BANK	8	0.00	3	215	378	1.76	1.76	0.00
0.870	0.560	JOR. GULF BANK	0	0.00	9	33500	18435	0.56	0.55	0.01-
4.180	1.820	ARAB INV. BK.	40.6	2.00	3	750	1500	2.02	2.00	0.02-
3.810	1.690	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.3	0.00	6	1730	2923	1.70	1.69	0.01-
0.850	0.600	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	8	0.00	11	24750	16335	0.66	0.66	0.00
BANK SECTOR TOTALS										
2.850	1.810	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	7.2	0.69	1	100	258	2.60	2.58	0.02-
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS										
125.77	125.77	INDEX	-0.09		1	100	258			
2.240	1.430	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	0.4	5.60	41	40850	71185	1.48	1.45	0.03-
4.030	1.550	JOR. ELECTRICITY	10.6	5.85	6	800	1360	1.68	1.71	0.03+
1.340	0.710	NATL. PORTFOLIO	28.3	0.00	3	950	675	0.71	0.71	0.00
4.400	1.680	ARAB INTEL. INV. FUND.	0.3	2.13	4	4073	7677	1.90	1.88	0.02-
0.990	0.880	KARAKA EDUCATION	20.8	0.00	1	250	225	0.88	0.88	0.00
1.800	1.060	UNIFIED CO.	5.0	9.73	5	2600	2938	1.13	1.13	0.00
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS										
105.67	105.67	INDEX	-0.56		60	58523	84050			
3.820	1.840	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	11.1	5.85	14	5766	10828	1.87	1.88	0.01+
1.210	1.450	JOR. CEMENT WIKES	12.8	0.00	2	458	1748	1.45	1.55	0.10-
6.500	3.850	ARAB POTASH CO.	38.8	5.24	3	48950	183575	3.86	3.82	0.04-
11.250	10.050	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.2	8.43	5	1785	18831	10.55	10.55	0.00
1.640	1.060	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AG.	67.4	0.00	4	515	586	1.15	1.14	0.01-
5.740	2.400	ARAB PHARM. WARE.	7.2	3.88	12	4750	12405	2.63	2.66	0.03-
2.980	1.700	ARAB ALUM. IND.	13.3	13.80	1	550	990	1.80	1.80	0.00
0.510	0.390	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	13.2	0.00	6	7000	2705	0.30	0.30	0.00
0.930	0.670	ARAB PAPER IND. TRD.	23.2	0.00	5	1100	836	0.77	0.76	0.01-
0.570	0.290	EXTENDED PETROL. CHEN.	0.0	0.00	13	11500	3248	0.29	0.28	0.01-
1.260	0.510	UNIV. MOD. INDS.	9.7	9.84	10	4140	2530	0.67	0.61	0.02-
0.920	0.480	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	9	0.00	7	7442	3706	0.50	0.49	0.01-
1.570	1.200	NATL. CHEMICALS	8.6	8.13	3	11750	14453	1.23	1.23	0.00
1.080	0.600	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	8.6	16.39	7	15400	9508	0.62	0.62	0.00
1.560	1.150	EL. KAY READY WEAR	45.0	0.00	5	1600	2048	1.28	1.28	0.00
1.310	0.910	TEL. TOBACCO	7.2	5.66	7	25400	26149	1.03	1.03	0.00
0.890	0.660	JORDAN STEEL	9.5	8.24	1	5000	4250	0.85	0.85	0.00
0.730	0.580	WAZ. ALUMINIUM	32.7	0.00	17	7881	5201	0.67	0.66	0.01-
0.670	0.530	NID. EAST COMPLEX	0.6	0.00	4	1300	689	0.54	0.53	0.01-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS										
76.80	76.80	INDEX	-0.77		126	162279	303166			
GRAND TOTAL										
167.66	167.66	INDEX	-1.32		327	358271	860714			
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 04/10/1998										
1.050	0.850	EXPORT & FIN. BKR. TSE	15.0	0.00	7	23000	14030	0.87	0.86	0.01-
1.000	0.700	JOR. INT. INSURANCE CO	2	0.00	2	5150	4223	0.78	0.82	0.04+
0.050	0.770	AMMAN INSURANCE	2	0.00	1	250	183	0.77	0.77	0.00
0.050	0.700	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	1	200	58	0.21	0.20	0.01-
0.500	0.340	JOR. TRADE FAC.	9	0.00	1	200	74	0.38	0.37	0.01-
0.620	0.240	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	0	16550	3972	0.24	0.24	0.00
2.220	1.050	CENTURY INV. GROUP	9	0.00	1	1000	1050	1.07	1.05	0.02-
1.000	0.810	ARAB JOR. INVEST. CO.	15.2	5.62	1	4000	3560	0.85	0.89	0.04+
0.600	0.270	ARAB FOOD & MED.	0	0.00	1	800	256	0.32	0.32	0.00
0.430	0.220	ARAB INTEL. INV. TRD.	24.2	0.00	2	14250	2903	0.22	0.21	0.01-
0.580	0.260	KATI. MULT. IND. FINANCIO	0.0	0.00	24	01350	23751	0.27	0.25	0.02-
0.500	0.350	ARAB SELECT. INDS.	0	0.00	1	300	105	0.35	0.35	0.00
2.160	1.100	UNION TOBACCO 87.57	11.4	5.92	1	200	307	2.11	2.11	0.00
0.720	0.570	NATL. PHARM.	0	0.00	2	350	208	0.50	0.50	0.00
1.350	0.800	1025. ENG.	0	0.00	7	10000	2000	0.21	0.20	0.01-
0.050	0.540	ADVANCED FRUNDO. IND.	0	0.00	2	7600	4332	0.57	0.57	0.00
0.500	0.300	PEARL SH. F. CONV.	2	0.00	4	1440	440	0.30	0.30	0.00
0.650	0.280	NATL. POLYMER	0	0.00	2	1250	638	0.51	0.51	0.00
1.310	0.760	NUTRITION	9	0.00	2	1300	1065	0.82	0.82	0.00
1.000	0.600	AL-KHAYAL PRINTING CO	10.7	10.82	2	7350	5145	0.70	0.70	0.00
GRAND TOTAL										
186546	186546	INDEX			86	186546	68478			

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Courageous Sagamix gives Peslier Arc hat-trick

PARIS (AFP) — French jockey Olivier Peslier landed his third successive Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp racecourse here on Sunday when Sagamix stormed home to take Europe's premier race.

It was the first hat-trick since Pat Eddery won from 1985-87.

Peslier, a 27-year-old who won on Helissio and Peintre Celebre in 1996 and 1997, grabbed the lead from valiant English filly Leggera in the dying strides with German raider Tiger Hill staying on for third.

Sagamix, who gave trainer Andre Fabre his fifth win in the race, provided a personal triumph too for owner Jean-Luc Lagardere, who has invested millions during his 35 years association with the Turf.

The 2/1 shot, who had merited favouritism after winning the Prix Niel last month, had to be chased up by Peslier with 300 metres to go as Leggera took the lead from pacemaker Happy Valentine.

Richard Quinn, oo Leggera, pressed for home but Peslier roused the three-

year-old colt into his run and the duel was on for the first prize of £400,000 (\$600,000).

Peslier forced his mount under extreme pressure past the John Dunlop-trained filly to clinch a famous win.

"This gives me so much pleasure. This was the hardest battle I have had to win the Arc, but to me it is the way of the sport, you cannot always have it easy," the former champion pooy rider said.

"With 200 metres to go I did not feel that it was on, but I just told myself 'yes we can do it, yes we can do it'," he added.

English Derby winner High-Rise and dual Derby winner Dream Well failed to show at all with the latter again giving the Niarchos family Arc heartache. For 30 years the Greek shipowning family have searched without success for a in the Arc.

Earlier, former national hunt jockey Vic Soane celebrated his greatest success as a trainer when the eight-year-old horse My Best Valentine outspint-

ed several more illustriously-bred rivals to capture the Group One Prix de l'Abbaye and the £50,000 (\$75,000) first prize.

Ridden from the front by Isle of Man-born Ray Cochrane the veteran, owned by the Valeotne family, out-fought fellow English raider Averti and the French runner Sainte Marine to leave the hosts with just one win in the last 13 runnings of their premier sprint.

The Freoch managed to win the other Group One race — the Prix Marcel Boussac — when the Criquelette Head-trained two-year-old filly Juvenia, by the 1987 Arc winner Tremolino, forced her way through to win on the line.

Jockey Olivier Doleuze, who celebrated his narrow win rising from his saddle to wave his whip to the crowd, grabbed his trophy at the prizegiving ceremony and did a flamboyant lap of the paddock giving high fives to startled-looking Freoch Jockey Club members.

Kilmarnock go top, Celtic improve

GLASGOW (R) — Kilmarnock moved to the top of the Scottish premier league with an uninspiring 0-0 draw at home against Dunfermline oo Saturday.

Champions Celtic achieved their first away league victory with a 2-1 win at Motherwell, Harald Brattbakk at last ending his goal famine in the 29th minute.

Rangers, on 15 points, oo behind the leaders, could make Kilmarnock pay for their failure to win when they play host to Dundee on Sunday. Celtic are third on 13 points.

Kilmarnock manager Bobby Williamson said his side, who have 16 points from nine games, will need to show more flair if they are to achieve their ambition of winning the title for the first time since 1965.

French striker Jerome Varelle hit the post with a 28th minute header and an overhead kick by Paul Wright went close in the second half. But otherwise Kilmarnock oever looked like making the breakthrough against Dunfermline, who had captain Andy Smith sent off in the 77th minute.

"That is something we have to get used to. Team are going to come here and sit in and we must show more cleverness around the goal area," said Williamson. "But we have to be pleased with our points total so far."

For Brattbakk, it was lucky 13 at Fir Park. The Norwegian struck the net for the first time in 13 games to end a miserable scoring run.

He finished off a pass from compatriot Vidar Riseth to bullet a 16-metre shot into the net off the post with his left foot. Paul Lambert added a second in the 45th minute, also with a shot from the edge of the box.

Motherwell reduced the deficit in the second half when Derek Adams scored, but Celtic never looked like drawing.

Lambert said: "We have now managed two successive wins, including our UEFA Cup victory over Vitoria Guimares, and I think we are starting to get better."

Hearts are at home to St Johnstone oo Sunday and Dundee United entertain Aberdeen.



Aston Villa's Lee Hendrie, left, attempts to get a shot past Coventry City goalkeeper Magnus Hedman, during their English Premier League soccer match at Coventry's Highfield Road Stadium. Villa won the match 2-1, to stretch its Premier League lead to six points (AP Photo)

Villa beat Coventry to open six-point lead

LONDON (AFP) — Midfielder Ian Taylor grabbed both goals as Aston Villa downed Midlands rivals Coventry City 2-1 on Saturday and swept six points clear at the top of the English Premiership standings.

Manchester United woo 3-0 away to ailing Southampton — their first win at The Dell for five years — and moved into second place.

Villa are oo unbeaten in 10 league and Cup matches.

Taylor opened the scoring with a header from 10 metres out after 29 minutes when the Coventry defence were slow to clear and then made it 2-0 six minutes before half-time, scoring from close range after a Paul Merson cross. The Coventry defence angrily but unsuccessfully appealed for offside.

The visitors pulled a goal back through substitute Trond Egil Solvred but could not have been surprised by the result. The Sky Blues have only six wins in 49 league meetings with Villa and are without a win since the opening day of the season.

John Gregory's efficient Villa side now have 20 points from eight games after their fifth successive Premiership home win.

Manchester United surged into second spot after Derby, Wimbledon and West Ham all lost.

Swedish international Jesper Blomqvist set up the opening two goals as United swept Southampton aside.

Trinidad and Tobago striker Dwight Yorke opened the scoring after 11 minutes and Andy Cole made the win certain with an efficient piece of finishing after 59 minutes.

United made it 3-0 when a Cole shot was too hot for

goalkeeper Paul Jones to handle and substitute Jordi Cruyff was oo hand to steer home the rebound with a left-foot volley.

Southampton oo have only one point from a possible 24 and appear set for a season of struggle.

A goal from England central defender Sol Campbell gave George Graham a winning start to his spell as Tottenham manager.

Campbell scored after 60 minutes to give Spurs a 1-0 win away to Derby, who lost their unbeaten home record.

Frenchman David Ginola, back in the Spurs side, set up the headed winner for Campbell with a clever free-kick.

Blackburn Rovers, without a win in six games and hit by injuries, lifted themselves to score a 3-0 triumph over an uninspired West Ham side.

Garry Flitcroft scored the first goal of the game after nine minutes when his shot from just inside the box deflected into the net off defender Rio Ferdinand.

Further goals came from Flitcroft, after a bad back pass from Ferdinand, and Callum Davidson, with a stunning right-foot shot, as Blackburn completed only their second win of the season.

Leicester got a 75th-minute goal from veteran opportunist Tooy Cottee as they won 1-0 away to Leeds, for whom David O'Leary filled in as caretaker manager following the departure of Graham. The home side lost their unbeaten record — deservedly after a lacklustre performance.

Everton rallied after conceding an early goal to win 2-1 away to Wimbledon.

Andy Roberts put the south London club in front

after just eight minutes with a cracking 25 metre drive but Danny Cadamarteri equalised after half an hour with a superb solo goal against the ruo of play.

Scottish striker Duncan Ferguson scored the winner for Everton with a powerful header from a David Unsworth cross.

Charlton scored a 1-0 win away to Nottingham Forest in a battle between promoted clubs.

Big central defender Eddie Youds scored the only goal of the game after 12 minutes, seizing on a loose ball 12 metres out as the Forest defence failed to clear the ball.

Charlton were clearly the better side as they scored their first away win of season and went close to increasing the margin of their win when Clive Meadococa hit a post.

Sheffield Wednesday, perhaps stunned by the incidents of last week when Paolo di Canio assaulted referee Paul Alcock, slumped to a 4-0 loss at Middlesbrough.

Wednesday lost Norwegian midfielder Petter Rudi with an ankle injury and Middlesbrough then took command through a pair of goals from Danish striker Mikkel Beck after 27 and 45 minutes.

Prolific Colombian striker Hamilton Ricard made it 3-0 with his eighth goal of the season after 49 minutes and Paul Gascoigne rounded out the scoring in the final minute.

Two big matches are scheduled for Sunday afternoon with champions Arsenal hosting Roud Gullit's resurgent Newcastle United and Liverpool at home to Chelsea.

Hoddle defends use of energy-boosting injections

LONDON (R) — England soccer manager Glenn Hoddle on Sunday defended the use of energy-boosting injections for his players at the World Cup in France.

The issue has exercised British newspapers which have accused Hoddle, who also employs a faith healer, of adopting bizarre tactics. "Why is it wacko when the Brazilians and the Italians and the Germans have been doing it for 20 years?" Hoddle said of the injections.

"It was pretty scientifically planned out. All we were doing was getting our bodies finely tuned. An England side has never been prepared as well for a World Cup as this oo was."

Hoddle told BBC radio that French doctor Yann Rougier supplied the England World Cup squad with energy supplements including the amino acid creatine, which is oot a banned substance.

British newspapers said Manchester United manager Alex Ferguson had asked the English Football Association (FA) for details of the injections, saying he was concerned at the after-effects on some of his players who were in the England squad.

Hoddle said: "We wrote to every team in April and we told them that there would be 40-odd players who would be blood tested, they would be scanned and they would be tested for mineral deficiencies and vitamin deficiencies."

Hoddle said it made sense to get players in the best possible shape.

"In the past we were probably playing oo a bellyful of beer and steak which is the worst thing," Hoddle said he stood by his decision to use the injections.

"If we get to the European championship it will be done again," he said.



AS Monaco's Robert Stepbar, right, challenges Anthony Reveillere of Rennes during their French first division soccer match Saturday in Rennes, Brittany. Rennes won 2-1 (AP Photo)

Leverkusen, Kaiserslautern draw; 1860 keep heat on Bayern

BERLIN (AP) — Paulo Rink's 65th minute header helped Bayer Leverkusen salvage a 2-2 draw Saturday in the Bundesliga against FC Kaiserslautern — the defending champions who seem to have forgotten how to win.

Rink, a Brazilian with a German passport trying to earn a steady berth on his new country's national team, blasted in his header off a cross from midfielder Stefan Beinlich as the contest ended 2-2.

Kaiserslautern's failure to win has reached five straight outings including league contests, the German Cup and Champions Cup. But coach Otto Rehhagel denied the club is slumping.

"We have't beeo and areo't oo a crisis," said Rehhagel.

"We're a good team and we played a good match."

But with Leverkusen and Kaiserslautern not living up to expectations in league play, surprising 1860 Munich has mounted the only real early season challenge to its unbeaten and more celebrated cross-town rival.

1860 blasted FC

Nuremberg 5-1, solidifying its hold on second in the table. Boasting a 5-1-1 record, they are only two points behind Bayern Munich, which plays Sunday against Dortmund.

Leverkusen's latest Brazilian acquisition, Ze Roberto, scored his first goal for the team in the eighth minute, but Olaf Marschall answered for Kaiserslautern in the 32nd. It was a league-best seventh goal for the lanky forward.

In a well-played contest, Kaiserslautern went ahead 2-1 nine minutes later on Bulgarian Mariam Hristov's shot. But ooce again the team's leaky defense blew a lead, yielding Rink's equalizer as German ootional team coach Erich Ribbeck watched in the stands.

1860, vowing their goal is the league title and oot just reaching international competition, added a few more believers with the most ooce-sided away win for the club in 32 years.

Nuremberg was thrashed in front of 44,600 as the 1860 Lions picked apart its defense with goals by

Markus Schrott, Harald Cerny, Bernhard Winkler, Michael Dioxey and Christo Jovov.

"It can't be that every week the other team is weak — some of it has to be us," said Winkler, whose goal was his sixth of the season.

In other matches, SC Freiburg and Hamburger SV played a 0-0 draw, Hansa Rostock edged Werder Bremen 2-1 in a battle of struggling clubs and VfL Bochum and Eintracht Frankfurt also played to 0-0.

On Friday, Hertha Berlin remained unbeaten at home in Olympiastadium by blasting Moenchengladbach 4-1 and a contest between Schalke and Wolfsburg ended 0-0.

Rostock needed a header by Matthias Breitzkreutz with two minutes left to win against Bremen. Oliver Neuville, jumping on a blackout by the opposing keeper, had put the East German club ahead before Bernhard Trares equalised.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Siemerink wins Toulouse title

TOULOUSE (AFP) — Second-seeded Dutchman Jan Siemerink beat top-seeded Greg Rusedski of Britain 6-4, 6-4 Sunday in the final of the \$400,000 ATP Tour event here. Siemerink took just 62 minutes to down Rusedski as he collected the fourth title of his career and his second this year. The 28-year-old Dutchman, ranked 20th in the world, woo in Rotterdam in March.

Basler out of European Championship qualifiers

MUNICH (AFP) — Bayern Munich midfielder Mario Basler on Sunday withdrew from Germany's squad for European championship qualifying matches against Turkey and Moldova. Basler, who is suffering from pleurisy, will miss the match against Turkey in Bursa oo Saturday and the match against Moldova in Chisinau on October 14. The Germans will also be without two other squad members: striker Olaf Marschall and midfielder Thomas Strunz are both injured.

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Jordan to host 1st Arab Paralympics

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Kingdom has been given the go-ahead to host the first Arab Paralympics following the conclusion of the Aug. 15-Sept. 6 Pan-Arab Games in Amman.

HRH Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid, president of the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped, told a press conference Sunday that the Games will include basketball, athletics, weightlifting, and table tennis for the physically handicapped; athletics for the blind; football for the

deaf and athletics for the mentally handicapped.

The government last week announced that it has set a budget of JD150,000 for hosting the paralympics.

Jordan's handicapped athletes were impressive at international events and got advanced results and many medals at the World Athletics Championships and the Stoke Mandeville Games this summer.

Italian Olympic Committee opens drugs enquiry

ROME (AFP) — Italy's Olympic Committee (CONI) have opened an enquiry into allegations of a drugs cover-up in Italian soccer and are also investigating top Serie A club Parma, it was revealed on Sunday.

The two enquiries are being led by lawyer Ugo Longo, who heads the CONI's internal drugs prosecution service.

He will start on Monday by interviewing former employees of Italy's test laboratory at Acqua Azzurra, where a dope test failure after a 1997 league match between Udinese and AS Roma is believed to have been covered up.

Longo will also begin

interviewing footballers, executives and medical staff belonging to Parma, after anomalies were found in blood tests taken by the players during July.

The same tests were sent to a Parma analysis lab and to a city hospital. The former showed high levels of red corpuscles — suggesting possible use of the banned drug EPO — while the latter readings were perfectly normal.

The club insisted on Saturday that the analysis lab results were wrong, as a result of faulty equipment.

Longo meanwhile denied reports that he would also be investigating the medical reports of the Italian national side.

"I never have and do not intend to open an enquiry into the national side," he said. "I have no elements that would make me do so."

The CONI lost its president Mario Pecante last week, his resignation made inevitable after growing scandals over Italy's drugs programme.

Longo will not be on unfamiliar ground. He and his staff concluded a similar enquiry on August 25 saying: "We believe we can confidently say that the doping phenomenon does not exist in Italian football."

Moya reaches Mallorca final

MALLORCA (R) — Carlos Moya set up a final between the 1998 and 1997 French Open champions on Saturday with a comfortable 6-1, 6-2 victory over Fernando Vicente at the Mallorca Open.

The Mallorca-born Moya proved far too strong, breaking his compatriot's serve five times to set up a final with Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten.

who edged out Thomas Muster 7-5 7-5 in the day's first semifinal.

Moya barely broke sweat as he took a 5-0 lead and seemed set to complete a first-set whitewash. Vicente eventually found some rhythm on his serve and, helped by two misty returns from Moya, managed to hold serve for the first time in game six.

Muster, the fifth seed, had earlier wasted a host of chances to get back into his semifinal in the second set, breaking the Kuerten serve twice but both times failing to hold his own.

Kuerten, the 1997 French Open champion and eighth seed, then saved two break points at 5-5 with aces.

Rios sees off Agassi to win Grand Slam Cup

MUNICH (AFP) —

Marcelo Rios became the first South American to win the title at the \$6.7 million Grand Slam Cup here Sunday, forcing Andre Agassi into a second marathon match in as many days to score a 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (7/1), 5-7, 6-3 victory.

The Chilean World No. 3 — who took over the No. 1 spot last April for a month after beating Agassi for the trophy at Key Biscayne — claimed a cheque for \$1.3 million.

Rios succeeded where fellow Latin Americans Andres Gomez (Ecuador, 1990), Jaime Yzaga (Peru, 1991 and 1994) and Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten had failed. He was the first from his continent even to win a match

at the nine-year-old tournament.

Agassi appeared to shake off any lingering fatigue as he played nearly seven hours of tennis in two days. The American had to work for nearly four hours on Saturday to claim a five-set semi-final win over Karol Kucera.

Rios, in contrast, won through in straight sets against U.S. Open finalist Mark Philippoussis to reach the richest title match in tennis.

But the Chilean admitted: "I started feeling my back pretty badly last night. I thought twice before playing today."

Agassi looked like challenging for another victory but came up short on a series of three consecutive breaks of serve in the

fifth.

Rios ended up holding a 3-2 edge as Agassi returned wide.

Agassi's errors then began to multiply and he served a sixth double-fault to give Rios three match points.

The American saved one, but put up another double fault to end it after two hours, 55 minutes.

Agassi, 28, and ranked eighth in the world, had 38 unforced errors and nine aces. Rios committed 60 unforced errors balanced by 18 aces.

Rios, 22, was the only player to reach the fourth round or better in each of the four Grand Slams in 1998.

"Once the match got going, I got the confidence to win," said Rios.



Andre Agassi from the United States wipes his face with a towel during the final of the Grand Slam Cup against Marcelo Rios from Chile in Munich. Rios won the match 6-4 2-6 7-6 5-7 6-3 (Reuters photo)

"Every point in a match like this is important. They were all good points, all tight. It was a great match."

Agassi's wild card entry into the 12-man field — disappointingly missing three of the four current Grand Slam champions — proved to be a good investment for organisers.

The Las Vegas crowd-pleaser helped to pack the stands of the Olympiahalle for the weekend on his way to earning a runner-up cheque of a respectable \$650,000.

Swiss Patty Schnyder, who put out a cramping World No. 1 Martina Hingis on Friday, was facing American Venus Williams for the inaugural women's title later.

Agassi was slow off the mark against Rios, who won the first set on a passing shot after 38 minutes.

But the American recovered his strength and tore through the second set, outpacing the lithe and fast Rios on returning power.

The Chilean gained the edge from a third-set tiebreak, racing to a 5-1 lead and conceding only one of the five set points at his disposal to carve out a two-sets-to-one margin after one hour, 38 minutes.



Chile's Marcelo Rios shouts in pain while being checked by an unidentified tournament doctor after an injury in the final of the Grand Slam Cup tennis tournament in Munich Sunday. Rios later beat Andre Agassi of the United States (AP Photo)

Braves sweep Cubs, Padres go up on Astros

CHICAGO (R) — The Atlanta Braves completed a three-game sweep of their National League Division Series against the Chicago Cubs with a 6-2 victory Saturday as Greg Maddux pitched seven strong innings, doubled and scored a run and his personal catcher Eddie Perez hit a grand slam.

The Braves will appear in their seventh straight National League Championship Series when they host the winner of the San Diego-Houston series beginning Wednesday.

In San Diego later on Saturday night, Jim Leyritz hit another late-inning homer to lift the Padres past Houston 2-1 as the Western Division winners went up two games to one in their best-of-five series.

Atlanta won its 10th straight game in Division Series play and is 12-1 since the extra tie of playoffs was added in 1995.

It was the third straight first-round sweep for the Braves, who ousted Houston and Los Angeles the last two seasons.

Maddux (1-0) threw seven scoreless innings before failing to retire any of the three batters he faced in the eighth. He improved to 4-0 in five Division Series starts and was charged with two runs and seven hits with no walks and four strikeouts.

"It was good," said Maddux. "I located, I changed speeds. When you do that, you've got a good chance."

Maddux also doubled and scored the game's first run in the third inning before Perez, who got the start over Game 2 hero Javy Lopez, broke it open in the eighth with a grand slam off Rod Beck that made it 6-0.

"I wasn't looking to hit it that far," said Perez. "I was

looking to hit a sacrifice fly. I got lucky, I guess."

Not even the return of rookie Kerry Wood (0-1) could prolong the Cubs' first playoff appearance since 1989. Wood (0-1) had not pitched since August 31 due to a sore pitching elbow, yet managed to go five effective innings, allowing three hits with four walks and five strikeouts.

The loss also ended a brilliant season for Cubs outfielder Sammy Sosa, who staged an epic home run chase with Mark McGwire before settling for 66, four shy of the St. Louis Cardinals slugger.

Sosa was 0-for-4 and struck out twice. He was just 2-for-11 in the series but after the game returned to right field to thank his fans.

The wild-card Cubs were 6-3 against the Braves during the regular season but in the end were no match for an Eastern Division-winning team that won a franchise-

record 106 games.

"The playoffs are different," said Sosa. "They have a better team. They have better pitching. That's why they won."

In San Diego, Leyritz hit his fifth postseason home run with one out in the seventh to break a tie and Tony Gwynn showed his all-around skills for the Padres.

Padres manager Bruce Bochy had gambled by starting ace Kevin Brown to the mound on three days' rest, hoping to steal the lead in the series. Brown delivered a gritty performance but was matched by Mike Hampton, who did not allow a hit over five innings.

Both starters were out of the game and the score was 1-1 when Leyritz golfed a one-strike pitch from reliever Sean Eilarton (0-1) into the left-field seats.

"He threw me a first-pitch fast ball and came back with a slider and I was able to get out

in front of it and hit it out of the stadium," said Leyritz.

Leyritz, whose ninth-inning blast tied Game 2 before Houston came back to even the series, has won or tied playoff contests with all five of his postseason home runs.

Brown allowed one run over 6 2/3 innings and Dan Miceli (1-1) followed with 1 1/3 brilliant innings. Trevor Hoffman, who surrendered the game-winning hit on Thursday, struck out the side in the ninth on 14 pitches for the save.

Hampton allowed one run and two hits over six innings. The first run of the game did not score until the bottom of the sixth. Chris Gomez led off with a single and Brown bunted him over to second. Quilvio Vera then singled to left and Gomez took third.



San Diego Padres Mark Sweeney is tagged out by Houston Astros Tony Gutierrez after a run down at first during game three of the National League Division Series playoffs at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, Calif. (AP Photo)

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U.N. envoy in Iran to discuss Afghan crisis

TEHRAN (AFP) — U.N. special envoy for Afghanistan Lakhdar Brahimi arrived here Sunday for talks with Iranian officials on defusing tensions between Tehran and the Islamic Taliban militia in Afghanistan.

Brahimi was greeted at the airport by Deputy Foreign Minister Mohsen Aminzadeh, who is in charge of the Afghan file at the ministry.

Brahimi told reporters he opposed any military solution to the Afghan crisis.

U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan "believes there is no reason for a military conflict to start between Iran and the Taliban," he said.

"Mr. Annan has given me the task to do all I can to ensure the respect of human rights principles in Afghanistan," Brahimi said he would

stay in Iran until Wednesday when he would travel on to Pakistan.

But he said he would not go to Afghanistan itself "because U.N. employees are not authorised to go to this country because of security reasons."

Tensions have mounted between Shiite Muslim Iran and the Sunni Muslim Taliban since the murder of eight Iranian diplomats and a journalist in Afghanistan in August.

The Iranian army has massed tens of thousands of troops along the border with Afghanistan for manoeuvres in a warning to the Taliban, which is accused here of engaging in "acts of banditry and drug trafficking."

Aminzadeh, for his part, expressed the hope that Brahimi's visit "will help put an end to the fratricidal war in Afghanistan."

He said Iranian troops had

been deployed at the border with Afghanistan "to ensure border security."

The U.N. special envoy on Saturday called on the Taliban to help ease tensions with neighbouring Iran.

The Taliban should "respect human rights and help the United Nations to put an end to the tension on the border between Iran and Afghanistan," Brahimi told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily Al Itihad.

Before travelling to Iran, Brahimi visited the UAE, which along with Pakistan and Saudi Arabia is one of just three nations which recognise the Taliban, which controls some 90 per cent of Afghanistan.

The United Nations, along with the rest of the international community, still recognises the government of ousted president Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Brahimi told Al Itihad that he discussed with the UAE president "the contribution that the UAE, which has good relations with Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran, can make towards resolving the current situation in Afghanistan and along its border" with Iran.

Iranian leaders have vowed to revenge the death of the diplomats, but pledged to first try to resolve the tension through diplomatic channels.

Tehran's immediate demand is that the Taliban release some 40 Iranian prisoners in Afghanistan and arrest and hand over the militiamen who killed the diplomats.

But Iran also wants the militia to share power with other Afghan factions for a broad-based government in Afghanistan, where Iran has traditionally commanded considerable influence.



CAUGHT BY THE ISRAELIS: Israeli soldiers in the West Bank town of Hebron lead six Palestinians who were caught out during curfew on Sunday. Stone-throwing clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinians continued Sunday as the Israeli-controlled part of Hebron remained under curfew, imposed on Wednesday after two hand grenades were thrown at Israeli soldiers (AP photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Palestinians protest settlement expansion

BANI NAIM (AFP) — Some 150 Palestinians held a demonstration Sunday to protest the expansion of a Jewish settlement near their village of Bani Naim, witnesses said. Landowners and residents of the village, close to the West Bank city of Hebron, protested outside the entrance to the settlement of Maale Hever, which in the past few days has moved its fences to enclose an additional 30 dunums (seven acres) of land belonging to it, they said. Amid cries of "Allahu Akbar" (God is great) they burned the Israeli flag and brandished signs saying "No peace with the settlements" and "By fire and blood we will evict you from Palestine." The protesters dispersed peacefully after the rally.

Talks on southern Sudan war cancelled

NAIROBI (AP) — The latest round of talks to seek ways of ending the civil war in southern Sudan have been cancelled because the Sudanese government declined to send representatives, a rebel official said Sunday. The talks were scheduled to begin in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, Monday under the auspices of the regional Intergovernmental Authority on Development. "As far as we know, there are not talks tomorrow because Khartoum is not sending anybody," said Justin Atop Yaac, a spokesman for the Sudan People's Liberation Army.

Iran says kills 2 Mujahideen near Iraq border

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian police killed two alleged members of the exiled Mujahideen Khalq opposition group in a shoot-out in a provincial capital near the border with Iraq, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported Sunday. "Two members of the Islamist Mujahideen Khalq organisation carrying revolvers and hand grenades were identified and killed while being engaged in the exchange of fire with law enforcement officials in Ahvaz, capital of the southwestern Iranian province of Khuzestan," the agency said.

Egyptian magazine urges legalising marijuana

CAIRO (AP) — A columnist for a leading state-run magazine urged the government on Sunday to lift its ban on the sale of marijuana, saying that legal efforts had failed to stop sales of the drug. Mohammad Shalan, a prominent psychologist who writes for Rose Al Yousef magazine, said that for the "law to be more practical and more human it [the government] should abrogate the ban so that the use of marijuana will not be illegal." Shalan wrote that marijuana, called hango in Egypt, is less harmful than tobacco and liquor which are legal. The use of hashish and marijuana is widespread in Egypt. The government has estimated that some \$3 billion a year are spent on illegal drugs in Egypt. Drug trafficking is punishable by death. Possession of marijuana or hashish is punishable by a prison sentence that can vary from months to years.

New Kuwaiti city gets approval

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Kuwaiti government on Sunday approved a proposed new city in the north of the country that will cost nearly six billion dollars and take some two decades to build. Subiyah, to be constructed some 130 kilometres north of Kuwait City, will be able to accommodate up to 260,000 people, the state news agency KUNA said. The project will cost \$5.85 billion and take 20 years to complete, according to government estimates. Kuwait suffers from a housing crisis with an estimated 57,000 people on the government waiting list.

Ten killed on Saudi roads

RIYADH (AFP) — Nine people were killed in a traffic accident in the Saudi Red Sea province of Qunfudah, the daily Al Riyadh reported Sunday. Five people were burnt to death Saturday after the car they were travelling in collided with another vehicle, whose four passengers were all killed. Meanwhile, a young football fan celebrating the kingdom's victory over Qatar last week in the Arab Cup died when his car was involved in an accident in the south-western region of Asir, the daily Okaz reported.

Two earthquakes hit Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — Two earthquakes measuring more than four degrees on the open-ended Richter scale struck regions in the northeast and west of Iran on Sunday, the official IRNA news agency reported. The first tremble, measuring 4.3 degrees, jolted the Bojnord and Shirvan regions of the north-eastern province of Khorasan at 1:04 a.m. local time Sunday, IRNA said. The second, measuring 4.8 degrees, rocked Darab-Shahr and Abadan in the south of Ilam province at 4:13 a.m. local time, it said. IRNA did not report any damage or casualties from the tremors.

Citing Turkey-Syria dispute, Israel curtails exercises

TEL AVIV (AP) — Signalling it does not want to be involved in any potential military confrontation between Syria and Turkey, Israel is limiting routine exercises along its own border with Syria.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai instructed the army Sunday to limit such manoeuvres to underscore Israel's hands-off approach to the escalating dispute between Damascus and Ankara.

"Israel is not interested in confrontation with Syria, but rather in finding ways to renew talks," Mordechai's office quoted him as saying.

Turkey amassed troops on its border with Syria after accusing Damascus of supporting anti-Turkish Kurdish rebels. Syria denies that, and accuses Israel of plotting with Turkey — an accusation Israel has sought to deflect.

Mordechai said Israel's military cooperation agreements with Turkey are not directed against Syria or any other country.

Under accords signed in 1996, the two countries have held joint manoeuvres, and

Israel is also allowed to use Turkish air space.

Israeli officials and experts said they doubted Israel would defend Turkey on the ground in the event that hostilities did erupt with Syria.

"It is not true that one side or the other [Israel or Turkey] will come to the aid of the other in the case of military confrontation," Zvi Elpeleg, former ambassador to Turkey, told Israel Radio.

However, one Israeli politician influential in military matters — Uzi Landau, head of the parliamentary foreign affairs and defence committee — said Israel should not rule out sending troops to the Syrian border as a deterrent if war did break out between Syria and Turkey.

"There are a few things that we could do without entering a war," Landau told army radio.

Mordechai called on Syria to reopen peace talks with Israel, which broke off in 1996. As a condition for the renewal of peace talks, Syria has demanded that Israel agree in principle to return the Golan Heights, which it occupied in 1967.

MARJAYOUN (AFP) — The Israeli-occupied South Lebanon Army (SLA) said Sunday it is ready to accept French or U.S. mediation to study a withdrawal from the Christian enclave it controls on the edge of the Israeli-occupied zone in Lebanon.

The militia's chief, Antoine Lahad, told a meeting of local officials Saturday that he had "no objection to studying a solution for the Jezzine enclave along the lines of the Kfarfalus solution," an SLA spokesman told AFP.

Kfarfalus is a crossing between Jezzine and the rest of Lebanon which was reopened in December last year after 12 years of closure following U.S. intervention.

Lahad said he would impose no conditions for a withdrawal and that mediation "could come from the United States, France or some other country," the spokesman reported.

The SLA chief announced Sept. 19 he was ready to pull out from Jezzine "if the Lebanese state takes over and undertakes to ban access to armed [anti-Israeli] groups and prevent the region being used as a base for operations against us."

"I was not talking about conditions for a solution, but about conditions for the interests of the residents and the future of the region," he added Saturday.

Lahad stressed that the SLA is "the only party in charge of the region" and that its withdrawal from Jezzine is not covered by U.N. Security Council Resolution 425 which demands the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Jezzine has enjoyed an unusual status since 1985 following the withdrawal of the Israeli army to an 850-square kilometre border strip it maintains as a "security zone" against cross-border attacks.

It was first placed under the control of the Vatican to prevent it from becoming part of the war zone and a Vatican official resided there until 1990 when the last representative from Rome died.

The SLA withdrew Sept. 17 from a strategic position it had been holding north of the Israeli-occupied zone and began imposing new security measures on Jezzine residents, requiring both entry and exit papers after accusing them of aiding anti-Israeli guerrilla actions.

U.S., Britain may put military pressure on Iraq

KUWAIT (R) — The defence ministers of Britain and the United States will visit their forces in the Gulf this month in a fresh reminder to Iraq that the two world powers are determined to see its full compliance with U.N. demands.

"The usual issues of cooperation and sales could be raised but the main question is Iraq and what to do" if Baghdad and the United Nations fail to resolve new differences over arms inspections, said a Western officer familiar with the visits.

Washington and London have both been strongly rallying Kuwait to pick their hardware for pending deals — mainly a Howitzer requirement and a command and control centre.

Kuwait Defence Ministry spokesman Colonel Ahmad Al Rahmi told Reuters on Sunday that George Robertson and William Cohen, defence ministers of Britain and the United

States respectively, are coming to Kuwait in October on separate "routine visits."

"There is no [Iraq] crisis at the time being... they are coming to inspect the troops and hold general military cooperation discussion," he added.

Although many sources in Kuwait have for months been expecting a new crisis others feel diplomacy might again work.

Rhetoric by the two powers has not escalated to the level of explicit threats to use force as in previous standoffs but the implicit warning of "all options are open" has been used in the latest difference between Iraq and the U.N.

"Right now there is no crisis," said Rear-Admiral Jean-Louis Battet who commands French naval forces in the region.

"Diplomacy continues and is effective... France's policy is for [Iraq] to comply with U.N. resolutions. There is no compromise."

"France uses diplomacy to resolve [crises] before being forced to military action... France will respect its obligations" if diplomacy fails, the admiral said.

The latest diplomatic effort by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan in New York with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz has not led to Baghdad's rescinding an Aug. 5 ban on U.N. arms inspections but further talks are scheduled this week.

The Security Council responded by freezing its periodic reviews of stringent trade sanctions which were due in October, thereby keeping Baghdad under indefinite embargoes which were first introduced in August, 1990, when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Britain's Robertson is expected in Kuwait on Tuesday on a 24-hour visit. He will visit crews operating 12 British Tornado warplanes deployed at an airbase close to the Iraqi border.

SLA wants mediation for withdrawal from enclave

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Schiffer denies announcing end to catwalk career

BONN (AFP) — German top model Claudia Schiffer denied Sunday that her catwalk career was over, saying a previous statement by her had been misinterpreted. "I am not stopping... even if I only model on the catwalk on some occasions," the 27-year-old said in a statement. Schiffer had said in Milan Saturday that she would only model for friends and was planning to shoot more films. "I do not plan to retire to private life," she said Sunday. "For me fashion shows are only a small part of my career, which has allowed me to become famous worldwide."

'You might walk again someday'

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Christopher Reeve told a 6-year-old girl paralysed in an amusement park accident that thanks to advances in spinal cord research she might walk again someday. Reeve, who was paralysed in a 1995 equestrian accident, on Saturday attended a fund-raiser for Emily's Walk for Spinal Research, a foundation founded by Emily Hunt's parents in her name. Reeve told the girl and audience members that research involving rats offers hope that spinal cord injuries can be mended. The only barrier to human testing is money, Reeve said. "I just want you to know that what we're talking about now is simply the financing of the procedure," he said. "It's going to happen."

Germany celebrates Presley walking ashore

BREMENHAVEN (AFP) — Elvis Presley is still drawing them in more than 20 years after he died, it seems. Organisers of a four-day festival in northern Germany to mark the day he set foot on German soil 40 years ago said Sunday they were pleased with the result. The festival in Bremerhaven drew around 8,000 visitors, most of them from foreign countries such as Belgium, Britain, the Netherlands and Switzerland. It was organised to celebrate the moment when, at 9:22 a.m. on Oct. 1, 1958, the king of rock 'n' roll alighted from a U.S. Navy vessel at the port of Bremerhaven, clutching his belongings in a military knapsack.

Attendance up, beer consumption down

MUNICH (AP) — More visitors drank less beer at this year's Oktoberfest, Munich's world-famous beer festival that ended Sunday. About 6.5 million people visited the 16-day annual event, 1.5 per cent more than in 1997, said Munich tourist office chief Gabi Weishaupl. Yet beer consumption dropped to its lowest level in years — down four per cent to five million litres. Weishaupl attributed the conflicting trends to more families coming to the festival with their children. Less beer consumed meant by the Bavarian Red Cross had less to do. It said the number of intoxicated people it took care of dropped from 345 in 1997 to 276 this year.

Final papal mass in Croatia draws hundreds of thousands

SPLIT (AFP) — Tens of thousands of believers congregated Sunday morning on the seaside esplanade where Pope John-Paul II was to hold mass before 300,000 people. The Pope left Zagreb just before 9 a.m. local time and landed in Split, Croatia's second-largest city, half an hour later. The Pope was to celebrate mass along with all of Croatia's bishops and hundreds of priests on a boulevard median strip along the Adriatic coast in the eastern suburb of Zlatibor. Thousands of Catholics were to watch the ceremony from the 380 boats that obtained authorisation to drop anchor off Zlatibor.